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Saipan Tribune

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POLL RESULTS

Are you and your home prepared for a typhoon?

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No-55

No opinion-9

Sunday, August 23, 2008

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of August 21, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



Greek Fire

A massive wildfire tore through outlying suburbs north of Athens early Sunday, destroying homes and forcing thousands to flee.

WORLD...Page 16

Wine Country

Mountain View, Napa Valley, Monterey, Yosemite and all the other places in between.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Despite rain, Korean ballet group dazzles crowd. **PAGE 2**

Contract of another NMC dep't chair not renewed. **PAGE 3**

1,000 ex-garment workers seek help to avail of \$600K

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

About 1,000 former garment workers submitted on or before the Aug. 15,

2009, deadline their applications to avail of the \$600,000 fund intended to assist former garment workers who are still on Saipan and are facing hardships resulting from their former employment.

Garment Workers Trust Fund chair Timothy Bellas said in an interview that, of the 1,000 applications they received so far, they already approved one repatriation to the Philippines and another one

for emergency medical referral.

Bellas said he and co-trustees—former Washington State Supreme Court chief justice Richard Guy and former

See 1,000 on Page 4

Fund's local investments face risks

WITHOUT \$4.1M FROM MPLT

Yumul: Expect the worst

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) said the government should "expect the worst," now that the Marianas Public

Land Trust has reiterated its grave concern about violating its fiduciary duty if it remits \$4.1 million to the general fund as the Fital administration had asked it to do, weeks before the end of Fiscal Year 2009.

See YUMUL on Page 4

'Credit union, Judiciary will be in default soon'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Two of the Retirement Fund's four major local investments are at risk, and could result in more serious problems if not addressed now, according to Fund comptroller David Demapan.

See FUND'S on Page 4

Health insurers explore savings in overseas care

By **TOM MURPHY**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Elizabeth Kunz left her dentist's office this spring with a mouth full of problems and no way to pay for them.

The South Carolina resident went out of her way, literally, to find a solution, which turned out to be in Central America. Her trip to the tropics is part of a health insurance experiment for trimming medical costs: overseas care.

As Washington searches for ways to

Medical travel

Some insurers and businesses are looking overseas for savings on health care costs, which are projected to rise 9.2 percent this year.

Surgery cost by country

■ U.S. ■ Costa Rica
■ Mexico ■ India

Heart bypass surgery

\$144,000
25,000
20,000
8,500

Knee replacement

\$50,000
11,500
10,650
7,000

Face lift

\$15,000
5,900
7,200
7,000

NOTE: Prices do not include travel costs

SOURCE: Medical Tourism Association

AP



CAR SHOW

A car inspired by Hollywood's famous Bumble Bee of the *Transformers* series is one of the crowd drawers at Power 99's "Real Deal on Wheelz 2009" on Saturday in Garapan. Due to heavy rain, cars on display had to be kept under tents also crowded by rain-soaked spectators.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



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Local

The Kim In Sook Grand Ballet Company dancers perform a number during Saturday night's show at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Despite rain, Korean ballet group dazzles crowd

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The performance of the Kim In Sook Grand Ballet Company last Saturday night at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa drew over a hundred appreciative spectators, who braved the incessant rain for a night of dance and cultural exchange.

Lauren Cundiff, one of several Americans in the audience, wishes there are more shows like this in the CNMI in the future.

"I love to experience new culture," Cundiff said.

Tami Winkfield said she likes this outreach program. "It was nice to see a different culture. It's kind of getting to know them [Koreans] better. Ballet is a universal movement. Everybody can do it," she said.

Hur Sung Jae was the star of the show, choreographing two of the six pieces that the Kim In Sook Grand Ballet Company performed, including the finale "Freedom."

The Korean dance group was here to promote friendship between Saipan and South Korea through dance performances.

"We are very grateful for the audience. It was a good show. At first we were worried because it is our first time to perform here and we don't really know how popular ballet is on Saipan," Hur said through the group's interpreter, Jessy Kim.

Hur, the president of the Central Cultural Arts Association of South Korea, said she had been traveling around the world for similar performances, including in the U.S. mainland, Europe, China, and Japan.

The group's artistic director, Kim In Sook, said their primary aim was to show the Korean spirit to the residents on Saipan.

"We are here to celebrate Korean Independence. Both of us have many things in common," she said.

She said they tried to blend classical ballet and traditional dances in their performances.

If given the chance, she said they would like to perform again on Saipan.

Students of the Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts also joined the show and Kim said she was touched by the local performers.

"Art is so important in our lives and we should have as many performances here as possible," she said.

Hur said she wants to see a Center for Performing Arts on Saipan.

"If you have this center, I am sure that many performers will come here. This would be a big help to tourism on Saipan," Hur suggested.

The show's other choreographer, Park Hea Ran, promised an even bigger event if given the chance to return.

Park said she wants to establish her own dance school here and teach children not only ballet but also Korean traditional dances.

"If given the chance, I would like to live here and help the kids," she said.

Saipan resident Song Kyong Min, who helped organize the show, promised more events like this in the future.

"We will hold cultural shows and whatever events we can for the community to enjoy. We don't have enough shows like this here on Saipan," she said.



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PRIORITY OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the Jobs for Veterans Act (US PL 107-288) (38 USC 4215), priority of service is provided to veterans (and certain spouses) who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for all employment and training programs funded by the USDOL to include funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For more information, contact WIA at 664-1704; 1707;1708 and 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

Contract of another NMC dep't chair not renewed

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another department chair at the Northern Marianas College has left the institution after his contract was not renewed by the management.

Friday was the last day of work for Glenn Keaton, chairman of the Sciences, Health And Athletics Department, who has been with the college for seven years.

NMC has named Cynthia Deleon Guerrero as acting chair of the department.

Keaton confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* the non-renewal of his

contract on Friday. His contract officially expired on Aug. 21.

He said he got a one-month notice about the college's decision.

Keaton is the second department head whose contract was not renewed. Mark Haag, chairman of the Languages and Humanities Department, was let go on Aug. 13.

When asked if he expected the decision, Keaton said: "Yes... because I was informed by the dean [beforehand] that my contract will not be renewed...so I was expecting it."

Keaton refused to comment on the possible reasons for his non-renewal. He said no reason

or cause was cited on the non-renewal notice he got. He said he did not even try to appeal the decision as it is not appealable.

"I am mentally and physically prepared for this," he told *Saipan Tribune*, saying his next plan is to find other job opportunities, possibly on island.

Early this year, Keaton wrote a "letter of concern" to his dean about some staffing issues in his department. He said the letter was not a form of a grievance complaint against the management—as what many believed.

Saipan Tribune learned that deans assess and evaluate department chairs every year.

asked if there's a political reason behind the decision.

Besides handling the Sciences, Mathematics, Health and Athletics Department, Keaton also simultaneously handled the Nursing Department for a year.

He was also instrumental in the many programs initiated in his department and participated in the college's program and review process.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez was not available for comments when contacted by *Saipan Tribune* Friday. An e-mail was also sent to the college's marketing and public relations department,

which is scheduled to issue a statement this week.

There are six academic departments at the college of which, *Saipan Tribune* learned, only one has a permanent chair—Frank Sobolewski of the Department of Social Sciences and Fine Arts.

The departments that lack permanent chairs include the Business Department, vacated by Eric Plinske; the Nursing Department, vacated by Lynn Curtis; the Languages and Humanities Department, vacated by Haag; and the Science, Mathematics, Health and Athletics Department, vacated by Keaton.

Medical battalion's professionalism lauded

Commonwealth Health Center Medical Director Richard Brostrom has lauded the professionalism of the 4th Medical Battalion during the two-week Innovative Readiness Training and free medical and dental clinic on Saipan.

The crew, composed of 37 professional staff, support technicians, administrators, and managers concluded their mission Friday after treating over 1,500 patients.

Brostrom said the Department of Public Health is "very grateful for the fantastic care delivered by the members of the IRT."

Many of the patients were children with disabilities, who were able to see a doctor or dentist for much needed healthcare.

"The level of professionalism was remarkable, and we are very hopeful that our initial plans for another IRT next year will be possible," Brostrom said.

Led by officer-in-charge Capt. Anita Kobuszewski, the crew promised to come back next year to include the islands of Tinian and Rota.

Kobuszewski said they were overwhelmed by the warm welcome showed them by local residents since they arrived on Aug. 2.

The battalion had a taste of GovGuam gets \$1M to modernize port

The Government of Guam has been awarded \$1 million in Capital Improvement Project funds. This money will be used for preliminary engineering and environmental studies for the modernization of the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port facilities.

The Port's projects were outlined in a proposal and scope of work submitted by the government of Guam to the U.S. Department of Interior on Aug. 11, 2009. The grant funding was made available through the execution of an amended agreement between the Office of Insular Affairs and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration.

Lt. Gov. Michael W. Cruz, M.D., who was acting governor at the time, signed the grant's notification of acceptance on Aug. 21, 2009. (PR)

that island hospitality during a dinner at the house of Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela on Wednesday night.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce also hosted a reception for the crew Thursday night at the Revolving Restaurant 360. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)

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Dress code: Island formal

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\$30.00 per person for Club at the Hyatt members



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NMI Red Cross volunteers help Koblerville fire victims

Over two dozen individuals were displaced Sunday night after the multi-family housing complex they were living in was destroyed by a fire.

Red Cross on-call Disaster Action Team volunteer Dave Bucher responded to the scene immediately after being notified by the Emergency

Management Office.

Other volunteers quickly responded with supplies to assist the fire victims and worked late into the night, ensuring that everyone's immediate emergency needs were met.

John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross, said: "We

are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who give up their personal time to help people in need, and that the Red Cross is forever grateful for their selflessness."

Working alongside with Red Cross volunteers were a few spontaneous volunteers who saw that there was an op-

eration and came to help. Among those individuals who came to help was one who assisted with translating for the Red Cross while the other was helping with logistical support. The relief operation continued the following day where the Red Cross volunteers continued with the casework work to ensure that all the clients' needs were met.

The Red Cross provided over

\$15,000 in food, shelter, and clothing assistance to the fire victims. In addition to providing assistance to the victims, the Red Cross also supports the Fire Department with refreshments for their rehab stations.

For more information on the Red Cross and how to become a volunteer, call 234-3459 or visit their website at www.nmiredcross.com. (**PR-ARC**)

HEALTH

From Page 1

tame the country's escalating health care costs, more insurers are offering networks of surgeons and dentists in places like India and Costa Rica, where costs can be as much as 80 percent less than in America.

Until recently, most Americans traveling abroad for cheaper non-emergency medical care were either uninsured or wealthy. But the profile of medical tourists is changing. Now, they are more likely to be people covered by private insurers, which are looking to keep costs from spiraling out of control.

The four largest commercial U.S. health insurers—with enrollments totaling nearly 100 million people—have either launched pilot programs offering

overseas travel or explored it. Several smaller insurers and brokers also have introduced travel options for hundreds of employers around the country.

Growth has been slow in part because some patients and employers have concerns about care quality and legal responsibility if something goes wrong. Plus, patients who have traditional plans with low deductibles may have little incentive to take a trip.

But a growing number of consumers with high-deductible plans, which make patients pay more out of pocket, could make these trips more inviting.

In the meantime, the insurance industry's embrace of overseas care has had a pleasant side effect at home: some U.S. care providers are offering price breaks to counter the foreign competition.

This domestic competition and the slumping economy have led to slower growth for medical tourism over the

past year, as patients put off elective procedures that involve big out of pocket costs, said Paul Keckley, executive director of the Deloitte Center for Health Solutions.

Last year, the center estimated that 6 million Americans would make medical tourism trips in 2010. But Keckley has since shaved that projection to about 1.6 million people. Still, that more than doubles the roughly 750,000 Americans who traveled abroad in 2007, the last year for which Deloitte had actual numbers.

Keckley expects the medical tourism industry to recover, as more health insurers offer the option and as more people wind up with high-deductible plans.

Health care costs for employers who offer insurance to their workers were projected to rise 9.2 percent this year and another 9 percent in 2010,

according to the consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. That could mean double-digit percentage increases for employees through higher premiums, deductibles or copays.

Overseas care can lead to price breaks of more than \$40,000, not counting travel costs, for procedures like knee replacement surgery or heart bypasses. Insurers, or employers who provide their own insurance, can save between 50 percent and 90 percent on major medical claims, said Jonathan Edelheit, president of the Florida-based Medical Tourism Association. A lower cost of living and lower prices for medical supplies and drugs help drive down care costs overseas compared to American providers.

While employers or insurers reap much of the savings, these lower costs can be the difference between a man-

ageable expense and a bank-breaker for patients with high-deductible plans. These increasingly popular plans can lead to out-of-pocket expenses surpassing \$5,000 for individual coverage and \$10,000 for family plans.

High out of pocket costs also are common with dental coverage, which is one reason dental care trips have proven popular.

Kunz, 47, initially doubted the potential savings she might see from visiting a Costa Rican dentist though a program offered by her insurer, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina. But a little comparison shopping—with help from the insurer—persuaded her to get on a plane.

She had eight crowns replaced, a tooth filled and root canal. The work would have cost her \$10,000 out of pocket back home, but she paid just \$2,800 after insurance.

YUMUL

From Page 1

"As of now, I don't see a favorable decision from MPLT to remit the \$4.1 million. It's a complicated issue and MPLT is still consulting with its legal counsel as to what steps to take given that there's only a few weeks before the end of the fiscal year," said Yumul, who was asked by Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos to consider an administration-drafted legislation for MPLT to remit the amount to the general fund.

Yumul and other members of his committee met with MPLT officials on Friday.

But Inos had said the \$4.1 million was listed as recovered interest resource in the Fiscal Year 2009 budget and that MPLT was willing to give the money during the preparation for the budget. He said without the remittance, the government will have a \$4.1 million shortfall.

Press secretary Charles Reyes, when asked for comment, said if the administration-backed measure cannot be enacted, then this poses a "very significant budgetary problem for the CNMI government."

Reyes said "significant budget cuts may have to be made," the details of which will come from Inos.

Yumul said the administration should have a plan of action by now

if the \$4.1 million does not go to the general fund.

Inos earlier said that, without the \$4.1 million expected revenue for this fiscal year which will end on Sept. 30, the government will have to further cut back on expenses but assured that critical services will get hit the last, if they get hit at all.

Inos said there may be excepted service or contract employees who have long been working on a 72-hour schedule that will be "temporarily separated" but only until the end of FY 2009.

Yumul said the administration needs to formally inform the Senate president and the House speaker of any changes in government projected revenues for

FY 2009. As of Friday, the Legislature has not received any such message from the Executive Branch, Yumul said.

As early as June, MPLT had already informed Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan about its stand on the \$4.1 million.

MPLT chair Vianney B. Hocog, in a June 4 letter to Pangelinan, said the FY 2009 resources labeled "MPLT recovered interest from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. appears to be the interest MPLT earned on its loan to NMHC."

The interest was appropriated back to MPLT as principal, according to law. These funds were to be retained by MPLT as an offset to its distribution to the general fund, Hocog had said.

"The resulting machination of this process was the full distribution of the net distributable income for each year to the Commonwealth General Fund with the concurrent return of the appropriated amounts back to MPLT as principal. The Trust is limited by the Constitution to distribute only its income to the general fund and cannot distribute principal," Hocog said.

Inos and Yumul separately said they will work with MPLT to resolve the matter and prevent further budget shortfalls.

The CNMI government's FY 2009 budget is \$156.76 million, and the proposed FY 2010 budget of \$162.82 million.

FUND'S

From Page 1

He said the Fund's investments with the Commonwealth Employee Government Credit Union and the judicial building will be in default in the next few months, based on the financial conditions of both entities.

The Fund loaned \$1.2 million to the government credit union in 2005. This was increased to \$2 million in the same year. The amount has a 7.5 percent interest, payable in 30 years.

As of July 31 this year, there is still a balance of \$1.6 million on the loan.

Demapan reported to the Fund's board of trustees that this loan may soon go into default as a result of the union's current cash flow situation.

"Our investments in the CEGCU and judicial building are at risk at this time. I have addressed to the board of trustees the situation of these investments," Demapan said.

As collateral to the union's loan, the CNMI government deeded two parcels of real property to the Fund. The lots are located on Rota and Tinian and have appraised values of over \$500,000.

Judiciary's debt

As of July 31, the Judiciary has \$7.09 million in outstanding balance on its loan to the Fund, Demapan said.

The Judiciary had earlier informed the Legislature and the Fund that loan payments will be not be sustained in future operations due to low collections and revenue from court activities.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Ju-

diciary's average monthly collections have significantly dropped in the last few years and will result in its \$13.8 million loan with the Fund going in default by next year.

The Judiciary's average monthly collections have decreased from \$103,902 in FY 2007 to \$69,126 in FY 2009 to date.

The Judicial Building Financing Act of 1994 allowed the CNMI government to secure a loan from the Fund in order to build the Judicial Complex (Guma Hustisia). The maturity date of the loan is Aug. 14, 2015. The construction of the Judicial Complex began in 1995 and was completed in May 1998.

Then-Fund chair Juan T. Guerrero said the Fund may consider extending the loan term for another five years in consideration of the Judiciary's finan-

cial condition.

Local investments

As of July 31, Demapan said the Fund realized \$2.5 million from the debt service payment of its local investments.

The principal balance of these investments also dropped by 8 percent from \$16.7 million to \$15.3 million to date.

"We're closely working with both parties to address the foreseen default of their obligations to the Fund," Demapan said.

Besides the two investments, Fund also poured \$1.2 million into the Group Health Insurance Trust Fund. This loan bears an interest of 7.5 percent per annum, with an initial payment of \$158,000 in November 2008 and monthly amortization of \$30,000, including interest until the

loan is fully paid.

The Retirement Fund also has investments in the member home loan program, which is now suspended and is up for sale to a local bank.

The home loan program was created in 1991 and was made available to Fund members with at least 36 months of contributing service.

The law authorized up to 40 percent of Fund assets to be made available to the program and borrowings are restricted to the construction, purchase, and improvement of principal residence or refinancing of existing mortgages on a member's home.

Saipan Tribune learned that as of September 2008 and 2007, the member home loan program receivables amount to \$5.7 million and \$6.7 million respectively.

against the garment industry.

The \$600,000 is the leftover money from the GOB that didn't get distributed to the former garment workers.

The money came from the checks distributed to the workers, but came back or were not cashed. The trust fund is now trying to distribute the amount to former garment workers who are still on Saipan and are facing hardships.

Any money that remains after the distribution will be donated to a charity organization.

1,000

From Page 1

California Supreme Court justice Cruz Reynoso—will have a face-to-face meeting on Sept. 25, 2009, to review the applications.

"We can't do all that on the phone. We are going to go over them. And we are going to approve or disapprove, depending on what they are asking for," he said.

The GWTF chairman said that, in his last letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, he indicated that they are going to put the governor's request under consideration.

"But our priorities are going to be repatriation first and whatever is left, we'll see what will happen," Bellas said.

Fitial recently asked the GWTF to reconsider its decision not to provide compensation to former garment workers who have prevailed in their labor cases but who have not been

paid because both the employer and the bonding company have gone out of business.

Fitial said: "If the Trust Fund can make a donation to a charity, then it would seem also possible for the Trust Fund to make a donation to each qualified worker."

The governor said a distribution from the trust fund to each worker with proven claims that remain unpaid seems the best way to carry out the original intent of the litigation that created the fund.

In an interview last week, Bellas said he does not want to prejudge what's going to happen in the meeting next month.

"The bottom line is, after we make the decision, we still are going to go to [U.S. District Court for the NMI] judge Alex Munson to have him approve it," he said.

The former Garment Oversight Board established the trust fund. The GOB was set up pursuant to the \$20-million settlement agreement in the class action

Regular newsletters eyed for PSS in new school year

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All public schools on three islands are expected to circulate individual newsletters starting this incoming school year.

Saipan Tribune learned this Friday during the principals' meeting held at the Pacific Islands Club. The project is being required by Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Christine Masga, acting principal for Hopwood Junior High School, disclosed that the newsletter will contain basic information of each individual school, its activities, and improvements

in student learning.

"The newsletter will be out on a regular basis to inform the kids' parents and the community about news from the school. PSS will inform them about the school's preparation with handbooks, new programs, and teacher positions that need to be filled," Masga said.

Although some schools have been circulating their own newsletters, Masga said the education commissioner wants the same initiative implemented in all schools.

"This will be under the guidance of the commissioner," Masga said, adding that schools

will also be given the responsibility to select themes for the monthly publication.

Besides the newsletter, Masga said principals were also asked to regularly appear on local television to highlight the important achievements and accomplishments of schools and its students.

The principal said updates on school projects will also be incorporated in the newsletters so

that education stakeholders will be notified of their status.

Masga said principals are convinced that the new initiative will help spread the progress of students to the community.

'Same old challenges'

Although she may have over 50 teaching staff in September, Masga said the average student-to-teacher ratio may be at 27:1 for the new school year.

She said the school, which accommodates an average of 1,100 students every year, needs more highly qualified teachers.

From only two school counselors for many years, Hopwood will have four counselors next month, who will be paid using funds under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

Masga reported that more than half of the 54 classroom teachers in her school are highly qualified.

She is expecting enrollment to slightly go up in the next few weeks as a result of the bad economy (due to more transfers from private school) and federal takeover of the local immigration system.

She said the school will offer more vocational education classes to better prepare middle schoolers for high school.

Regular classes in public schools will open on Sept. 8.

Employee in timecard cheating case gets one added charge

The Office of the Attorney General has filed an amended information to add another charge against one of three government employees facing allegations they cheated on the timecards of co-workers.

Special assistant attorney general Joseph J. Przyuski added one count of obstruction of justice charge against 55-year-old Antonio Sablan Benavente.

Przyuski stated in the complaint that, on or between July and August 2009, Benavente unlawfully tampered with a potential government witness.

The prosecutor said Benavente approached Juan Nekaifes at the Multi-Purpose Center and told him that he [Nekaifas] would go to jail if he testifies in the case.

Benavente allegedly instructed Nekaifes to go to the OAG and inform the prosecution that he will not testify and wishes to drop the complaint.

The amended information charged Benavente and the 54-year-old Jose L. Itibus

with conspiracy to commit theft by deception.

The information also charged Benavente and 52-year-old community worker Edwin R. Olopai with conspiracy to commit theft by deception.

According to Przyuski, on or between January and April 2009, Benavente and Itibus conspired to punch in or punch out the timecards of co-workers who were not present or working and or complete or sign timecards overstating and misrepresenting the hours worked.

The prosecutor said that on or between April and June 2009, Benavente and Olopai also committed the same offense.

Itibus pleaded not guilty. The administration recently re-appointed him to serve on the Commonwealth Election Commission board. The Senate had confirmed his appointment.

The arraignments for Benavente and Olopai are set for today, Monday. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Patient drops medical malpractice lawsuit vs doctor

A Saipan resident who filed a medical malpractice lawsuit against a former Hawaii-based doctor for alleged negligence in exercising due care and follow-up care in her breasts' reconstructive surgery has decided to drop the lawsuit.

Mary Anne Stewart filed on Friday before the U.S. District Court a motion to dismiss her lawsuit against Dr. Barbara Honnebier and Pacific Institute of Human Resources LLC.

Stewart asked the federal

court to dismiss the entire lawsuit with prejudice or finality. She did not state a reason for dropping the case.

Mary Anne E. Stewart sued Dr. Honnebier and her Pacific Institute of Human Restoration LLC, five unnamed health

care organizations, and five unnamed persons.

Stewart filed the lawsuit in April 2009. She asked the court to order the defendants to pay her damages and court costs. She filed the lawsuit without a lawyer. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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Service beyond the sale...

Plane glitch delays Echo Company's homecoming

Due to mechanical problems of their chartered plane, the homecoming for the CNMI's 70 reserved officers with the Echo Company had been postponed anew until Tuesday, Aug. 25.

The troops were supposed to arrive at 1pm yesterday at the Saipan International Airport.

As early as 7am, yellow ribbons were already tied to trees and election campaign signboards along the airport road to Herman's Bakery.

It was the third time that the troops homecoming had been postponed. They were originally scheduled to come home soon after arriving at Fort Hood, Texas, on Aug. 13 after a year-long deployment in Kuwait.

Ruth Coleman, executive officer of the Military and Veterans Affairs Office, said the troops are expected to come home within 48-72 hours.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial was supposed to deliver a welcoming address to the soldiers, to be joined by former presiding judge Ed Manibusan, who is the civilian aid to the Secretary of the Army.

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars led by president and Commander of Post 3457 Larry Guerrero and District 6 commander for the Pacific Mariano Fajardo are also organizing a welcoming activity for the troops. *(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)*

Man facing domestic violence nabbed anew

A man who was arrested in March for domestic violence was arrested again on Wednesday for allegedly disobeying a court order that protected the victim.

Jesus R. Jones, 51, was arrested after a police officer found him inside the victim's house in violation of a court's protection order.

Jones was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for bail hearing on charges of contempt of court and violating an order for protection, and disturbing the peace.

A \$25,000 cash bail was initially imposed for his temporary liberty.

Detective Andrea Ozawa stated in her report that when she went to Upper Miha in Garapan to talk to the victim, she saw the defendant inside the house.

Ozawa learned that Jones also went to the house last Aug. 16 and had cussed the victim.

The Superior Court ordered on Aug. 18, 2009, an order directing Jones not to "molest, attack, harass, or contact" the victim.

In March 2009, police arrested Jones for allegedly beating up his wife after she refused to have sex with him at their residence.

The victim suffered bruises and slight swelling on the left cheek in that incident, police said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Another \$350K for NMI sewer projects

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP) announced Friday that the Environmental Protection Agency will award another \$350,000 to the Northern Mariana Islands for sewer projects. The award comes on the heels of a grant for \$1,101,700 awarded on August 13. Both grants are funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress in February.

"In addition to helping us reach our goal of having an environmentally safe wastewater system for every household in the Northern Mariana Islands," says Sablan, "these grants are going to put people to work and put money into our local economy. Recovery and reinvestment—that's exactly what we in Congress intended for the money we appropriated in February."

The \$350,000 grant will go to rerouting and realignment of sewer collection lines. This should significantly reduce energy usage and operation and maintenance costs.

Laura Yoshii, acting Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, reiterated Sablan's message. "This funding will allow CNMI to address its high-

est water infrastructure priorities, protect human health and surface water quality, address climate change, and create critical green jobs as a foundation for a sustainable future."

An unprecedented \$6 billion dollars is being awarded to fund water and wastewater infrastructure projects across the country under the Recovery Act. The money is coming in the form of low-interest loans, principal forgiveness and grants. At least 20 percent of the funds provided under the Recovery Act

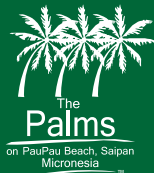
ON THE NET

www.sablan.house.gov

are to be used for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency improvements and other environmentally innovative projects.

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on February 17, 2009, and has directed that the Recovery Act be implemented with unprecedented transparency and accountability. To that end, the American people can see how every dollar is being invested at Recovery.gov.

Information about the expected \$112 million in formula grants expected to come to the Northern Mariana Islands is available at Sablan's website, www.sablan.house.gov. (PR)



New Specials at Palms Resort Saipan



Miller Draft Fusion Mexican Dinner Buffet Every Wednesday

Enjoy a sumptuous Fusion Mexican Cuisine with delicious selection with all you can drink Miller Draft and Tequila.

\$25.00 per person \$12.50 child
PauPau Bar & Terrace 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm



Bud Light Seafood Night Buffet Every Friday

Enjoy a variety of Seafood delicacy with all you can drink Bud Family Beer.

\$33.00 Adult \$16.50 Child
Minami Restaurant 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm



Sunday Brunch at Minami

Treat the whole family to a variety of international cuisine and enjoy bottomless sodas and sparkling wine.

\$33.00 Adult \$16.50 Child
Minami Restaurant 11:00 am ~ 2:00 pm



Stay the Ultimate Dream Night Room Promotion

For just \$88.00/night with Breakfast or Sunday Brunch for 2 inclusive of F&B Discount Access to Pool / Fitness Center

Other conditions apply.



Ladies Night at PauPau Bar Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday

Ladies can enjoy a full pitcher of cocktail, finger food, 50% off for all the ladies (menu price) and enjoy live entertainment by Maggie Naputi Band

PauPau Bar & Terrace 7:00 pm ~ 11:00 pm



Bud Light Steak Night Buffet Every Saturday

All you can eat Steak grilled to perfection and with free flowing Bud Family Beer.

\$33.00 Adult \$16.50 Child
Minami Restaurant 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm



All-U-Can Eat Steak & Seafood Teppanyaki Style

A variety of teppanyaki delicacy cooked to perfection.

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Kaenju Restaurant 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm



Cruise the Night Away Special Promotion

For just \$69.00 per person, the 2 of you can enjoy a One Night Stay, Sunset Dinner Cruise and Breakfast (based on a share twin)

Other conditions apply.

For more information or reservation, please call 322-3311.

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DOC holds survey on behavioral risk factors

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-CEC-140**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

“TO AMEND 1 CMC SECTION 9913 IN ORDER TO MAKE THE PROVISION OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT APPLICABLE TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH FOR THE COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION”

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. PLEASE CONTACT MS. JERMAE CABRERA AT (670) 664-8683 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-CEC-143**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.

“TO AMEND ARTICLE III, SECTION 9(a) HLI 16-11, HD2, TO AMEND ARTICLE XV, SECTION 1(c) and (e) HLI 15-3, HD 1 TO AMEND ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 1 SLI 16-11 FOR THE COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION”

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. PLEASE CONTACT MS. JERMAE CABRERA AT (670) 664-8683 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-OPM-139**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, TINIAN BRANCH”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D)

/s/ ISIDRO K. SEMAN
ACTING DIRECTOR OF OPM

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

4th Quarter Meeting
August 26, 2009 - 8:30am
Pacific Islands Club

Agenda

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - a. Call to order/Introductions
 - b. Adoption of Agenda
 - c. Adoption of Minutes from 5/27/09 meeting
- II. Committee Break-Out Session
- III. Reports/Updates
 - a. Sub-Committee reports
 - i. Nomination/Membership/By-Laws (Janet)
 - ii. Legislative/Regulatory (Tom)
 - iii. Planning (Jennifer)
 - b. CGC Update and Report - Independent Peer Review
 - c. TLC updates
 - d. MHPC/Coalition projects Updates
 - e. Rota Report
 - f. Tinian Report
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Open government Act Request (NMPASI) Status
 - b. Block Grant FY10 Application Status
- V. New Business
 - a. Grant Application Comments and Recommendations
 - b. Planning Council Letter
- VI. Misc/Announcement
 - a. Guam Systems of Care Conference
- VII. Next Meeting
 - a. November 25, 2009-PIC
- VIII. Adjournment

The Central Statistics Division of the CNMI Department of Commerce is conducting the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System from Aug. 22, 2009 to Oct. 31, 2009 for the Department of Public Health. The purpose of this survey is to collect health behavioral information of the community for public health planning and prevention program.

The survey will be carried out by 35 highly trained enumerators who will be visiting households during the survey period and will be wearing their identification

tags at all times.

A household or dwelling unit is selected for the survey through a scientific sampling method to represent a typical CNMI household. The information collected from the survey will be kept confidential and will be used only in statistical format. All enumerators/interviewers are sworn to uphold the confidentiality of information collected and persons interviewed.

“We kindly request your full cooperation with our enumerators when they visit your household in order to ensure the success of this survey,” said the Fitial administration in a statement issued Friday.

For more information about the survey, contact the Central Statistics Division at 664-3023/45 Division of Public Health at 236-7602. (PR)

Commonwealth Zoning Board NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Date: August 25, 2009, Tuesday

Time: 6:00pm

Place: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

The Zoning Board will hold a public meeting to introduce the proposed Beach Road Corridor Improvement Plan. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Comments may be submitted orally or in writing at the meeting. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, August 26, 2009, or they may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For more information, please contact Victor Barrett, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For the Preventive Maintenance of the Air-Conditioning Units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and CPA Saipan Seaport Building
Project No. RFP-006-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified air-conditioning and refrigeration companies for service and preventive maintenance of the air-conditioning units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and the CPA Saipan Seaport Building, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope of Work is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, telephone number (670) 237-6500. A pre-proposal meeting and on-site visit is mandatory and to be conducted on Friday, August 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting and on-site inspection of the units will be allowed to submit proposals.

The term of the Service and Preventive Maintenance Services contract shall be for one (1) year. Performance and payment bonds will be required for this project and the cost of acquiring the bonds should be included in the proposed price.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Service and Preventive Maintenance of the Air-Conditioning Units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport/CPA Saipan Seaport Building, Project No. RFP-006-09.” Associated costs for the airport and seaport buildings should be submitted together but as separate proposals. Determination of the winning proposal will be based on the overall price for both airport and seaport.

All proposals shall be submitted no later than **4:30 p.m.** local time, **Friday, September 11, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CPA Procurement Regulations.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become the property of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

AUG 24, 1999

Rebates, refunds out in September

Taxpayers who filed their returns way before the April 15 filing deadline will receive their rebate checks as early as second week of September, according to Mike Sablan, the governor's special advisor for finance and budget. He said the Department of Finance has begun review of the returns in preparation for release of the checks, which the government hopes to complete by October 15. The staff of the Revenue and Tax division have been working overtime to verify and reconcile the returns against what had been reported by the employers.

9th Circuit Court junks appeal on class action

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has refused to reverse Saipan District Court Judge Alex Munson's order dismissing the complaint lodged by 23 nonresident workers in a class action lawsuit against Saipan's garment companies. In dismissing the appeal filed by the anonymous plaintiffs, the appellate court said it would be “premature” to reverse Munson's decision because it was “not a final order or judgment.” “A review of the district court docket reflects that the district court's order challenged in this appeal did not dispose of the action as to all claims and all parties,” the appellate court's Aug. 18 order stated.

AUG 24, 2000

‘OPA: MRC-DLNR marina deal flawed’

The Office of the Public Auditor is recommending amendments to the existing agreement between the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the cash-strapped Marine Revitalization Corporation, in order to properly address issues hounding the operation of the troubled Outer Cove Marina. Flaws in the Submerged Land Lease Agreement reached between DLNR and MRC are to be blamed on the failure to establish a fixed amount for the controversial Outer Cove Marina Project, according to Public Auditor Leo L. LaMotte. Mr. LaMotte mentioned that these flaws involved the failure to set definite guidelines on what and how much fees can the MRC collect from boat owners and operators, as well as what should be the factors that should be considered in establishing the fees.

Initiative hiking public education's budget opposed

A proposed legislative initiative hiking the budget share of public elementary and secondary education courted strong objections yesterday in the House of Representatives for fear it could deprive other government agencies of badly-needed funds. House Legislative Initiative 12-1 seeks to amend Article 15 of the CNMI Constitution to increase annual appropriation of the Public School System from a minimum 15 percent of the total local revenues to at least 25 percent. Sponsored by Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan, the move is intended to provide enough funding for public schools as the present budget earmarked by the government falls short of what they actually need.

AUG 24, 2001

Officials ‘snub’ public hearing

The absence of key executive officials prompted the Senate joint oversight panel to cancel yesterday's oversight hearing, saying that representatives do not really have a final say in the government's procurement and supply chain. Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano, chair of the Senate committee on executive appointments and government investigation, said they decided to postpone the oversight hearing to a later date due to the absence of Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen, Attorney General Herb Soll, Public Works Secretary Juan B. Cepeda and Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan. According to their respective representatives, Nielsen was supposed to arrive yesterday afternoon after a month-long vacation, Soll was at that time attending a court hearing, while Sablan was in Washington DC. It was not immediately known why Cepeda was not at the hearing. Acting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack later said that Nielsen's arrival may be delayed due to typhoon Pabuk.

No-show' irks legislators

Emotions were running high yesterday during the aborted oversight hearing for the government's procurement system, with some senators barely able to conceal their anger over the absence of some executive officials who failed to make it to the hearing. Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig said that his colleague, Sen. Edward U. Maratita, was particularly “pissed off” over the absence of Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen, Attorney General Herb Soll and Public Works Secretary Juan B. Cepeda. “We wanted these officials to be there because we wanted people who could make decisions, who can say yes or no, and not some representative who will further delay the hearing with ‘I'll have to consult my boss about that,’” said Atalig.

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONCOMMONWEALTH UTILITIES
CORPORATION'S [CUC] LEAC RATE
AND OTHER ELECTRIC REGULATORY MATTERS

DOCKET 09-1

REVIEW OF CUC'S WATER AND
WASTEWATER RATES

DOCKET 09-2

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT at 1:00 p.m. on August 31, 2009, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [CPUC] will conduct a public hearing and regulatory workshop at the Senate Chamber in the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capitol Hill to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the following CUC regulatory matters in Dockets 09-1 and 09-2 and on such other regulatory matters as may arise.

On December 19, 2008, CPUC established a leveled energy adjustment clause [LEAC] by which it would set and adjust a semi-annual rate to enable CUC to recover its fuel and related expenses. By order dated April 2, 2009 CPUC established a LEAC rate of \$.20147 cents per kWh for the period April 3, 2009 through September 30, 2009. CPUC ordered that CUC use specific portions of this LEAC revenue only to increase its fuel inventory and to fund a locked box reserve for CPUC authorized generation enhancement activities. In its April 2009 order, CPUC directed that its regulatory consultant [Georgetown] recommend a LEAC rate, which would be established for the period October 1, 2009 through March 30, 2010. On August 10, 2009, Georgetown submitted its report, which is available for public inspection on the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's website www.saipanchamber.com. In its report, Georgetown recommends that for the six month period commencing October 1, 2009, the current LEAC rate of \$.20147 cents per kWh be increased to \$.22618 cents per kWh [a 12% increase] to reflect projected increases in oil prices. However, in its report, Georgetown states that CUC has violated CPUC's orders, which required that about \$5.2 million dollars of LEAC revenues, which will have accrued during the period January through September 2009, be deposited into a restricted bank account and used only for CPUC approved generation enhancement purposes. No funds have been deposited into the restricted account and CUC has also failed to file required accounting reports with CPUC regarding the status and use of these restricted funds. Georgetown advises that if CUC were required to use a portion of this unaccounted for revenue [about \$2.9 million dollars] to offset the projected fuel increase, then no increase to the existing LEAC rate would be necessary. In its report, Georgetown also states that about 20% of the energy produced by CUC's power plants is unaccounted for and is not shown in energy sales to its customers. A normal utility level of unaccounted for energy is in the range of 7%. Accordingly, ratepayers are paying a 13% premium for this unaccounted for energy. Georgetown recommends that CPUC initiate an investigation into this problem. At the August 31, 2009 public hearing, CPUC will receive a briefing from Georgetown regarding its LEAC report and will also receive testimony regarding an appropriate regulatory response to CUC's violation of CPUC orders concerning CUC's use and accounting of restricted LEAC revenues.

By amended petition dated May 22, 2009, CUC requested that CPUC review and approve a proposed preferred stock agreement between CUC and the Commonwealth Development Authority [CDA] under which \$177 million dollars in CUC financial obligations to CDA would be converted into \$45 million dollars of preferred stock. By report dated July 27, 2009, Georgetown has recommended that CPUC approve the transaction. This report is available for public inspection at the Chamber website mentioned above. At the August 31, 2009 public hearing, CPUC will receive a briefing from Georgetown regarding its report and recommendation.

Within the process under which the Commonwealth has petitioned for energy grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, CPUC has been requested to examine whether different or additional financial incentives are necessary to encourage CUC's electric customers to use energy more efficiently without raising the cost of conservation and increasing the cost to ratepayers of measurable, verifiable efficiency savings. By public notice issued on July 17, 2009, CPUC invited public comment and further directed that Georgetown examine and report on this matter. At the August 31, 2009 public hearing, CPUC will consider public comments and Georgetown's report, which is due on August 14, 2009 and will be available for public inspection on the Chamber website mentioned above.

By order dated April 2, 2009 in Docket 09-2 CPUC directed Georgetown and CUC to propose interim lifeline water and wastewater rates for low income customers. Pursuant to this order, Georgetown conducted a review and issued a report on August 8, 2009, which is available for public inspection on the Chamber website mentioned above. In the report, Georgetown recommends that the current water and wastewater rates, which are still 40% below CUC's cost, should serve as a surrogate interim lifeline rate pending further regulatory proceedings, which will consider how to fund the 40% shortfall. At the August 31, 2009 public hearing, CPUC will receive a briefing from Georgetown on this subject as well as its recommendations regarding the scope and process for a CPUC investigation of CUC revenue enhancement activities, which could mitigate the revenue shortfall.

At the August 31, 2009 public hearing, CPUC will welcome the public's attendance and comments at the conclusion of the hearing. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before August 25, 2009 file with CPUC at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce offices at the Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan an application and offer of proof in accordance with § 8409(j) and CPUC Procedural Rule 11(c). Subsequent to the public hearing, CPUC will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on September 3, 2009 at the Garapan office of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing. Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from CPUC commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

**ATTENTION FARMERS**

The USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces the availability of the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the 2010 crop year. NAP provides coverage in the event of a natural disaster for all crops not covered by traditional crop insurance. This includes fruits, vegetables, ornamental nursery, aquaculture and floriculture. A minimum administrative fee of \$250.00 per crop not to exceed \$750.00 per producer per county will be assessed. For more information contact Ilene Quitugua, Program Tech. at (671) 472-7547, Tom Camacho, County Executive Director at (671) 472-7568 or online at www.fsa.usda.gov/pb.

Application closing dates:**Value-Loss Crops* is September 1, 2009.****Fruit and Vegetables is December 1, 2009.****Value Loss Crops include ornamental nursery, aquaculture and floriculture.*

Contact USDA/FSA Guam County Office at (670) 236-0896 ext. 1 to apply. Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.

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**NOTIFICATION OF WIA DISLOCATED WORKER
FUNDING PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY**

CATEGORY A: GENERAL DISLOCATED WORKERS. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

CATEGORY B: PLANT CLOSURE. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close.

CATEGORY C: SELF-EMPLOYED or UNEMPLOYED. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WIA AT 664-1704/1707; 1708 OR 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com. All other program eligibility applies.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

Are you 18 years or older?**Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?**

**Been dependent
on the income of an-
other family member but
no longer supported by that
income and are you unem-
ployed or underemployed
and experiencing difficulty
obtaining or upgrad-
ing employment?**

If you answer "YES" to all of these questions contact WIA at 664-1704/5 7& 8. You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Scot-free

The sickening hero's welcome accorded by Libya on Thursday to the mass murderer convicted in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing is an indictment both of the government in Tripoli that choreographed his homecoming and of the Scottish justice minister who ordered his release on "compassionate" grounds.

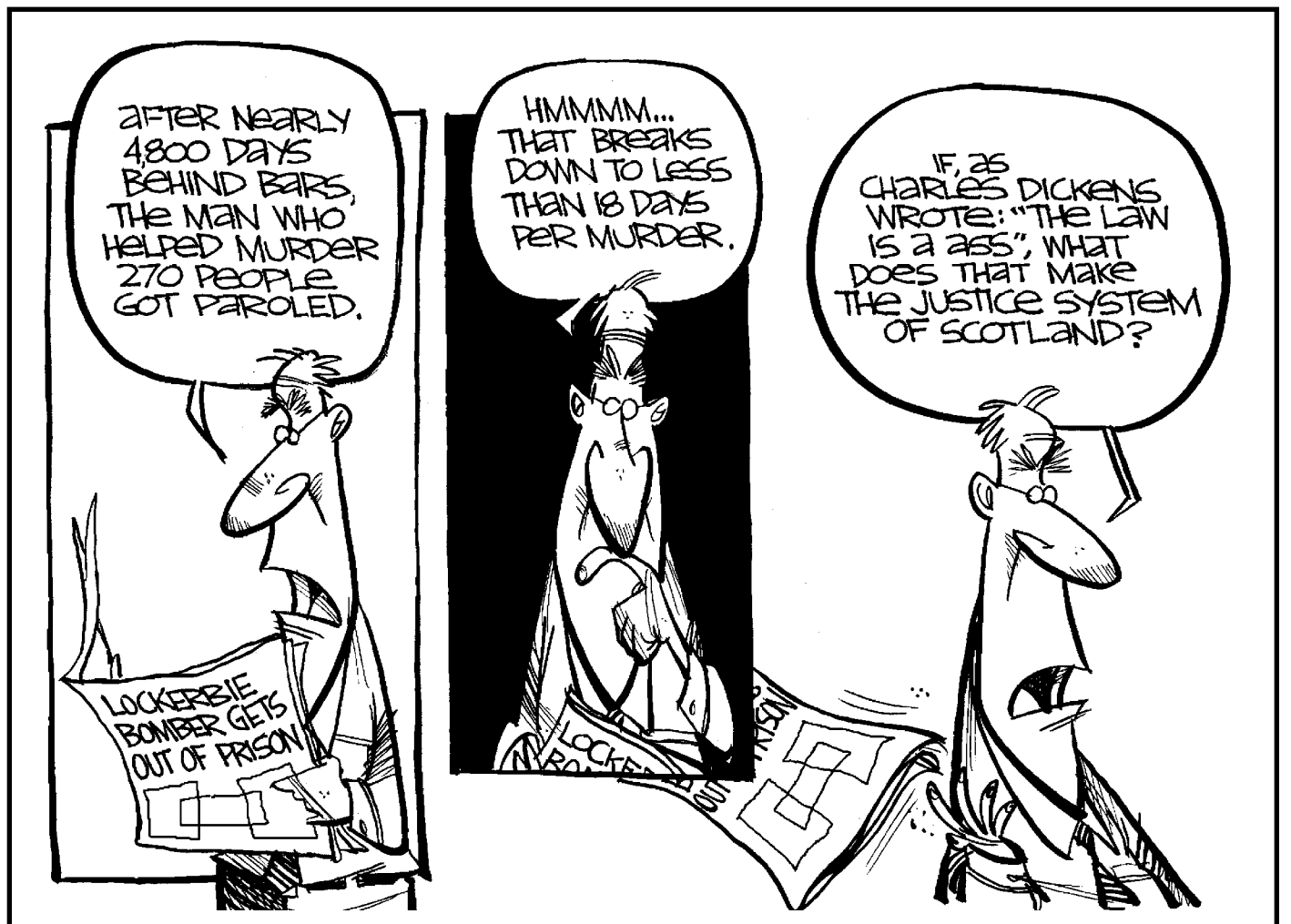
The Scottish minister, Kenny MacAskill, said he released Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, a former Libyan intelligence agent, because he is suffering from prostate cancer and is expected to die within three months. His decision to free Megrahi after he had served just eight years of a minimum 27-year sentence is a travesty of justice. It suggests indifference for the 270 innocent victims who died at Lockerbie and contempt for their anguished relatives.

For a blood-soaked killer like Megrahi, it was quite enough compassion that he was permitted visits from his wife and family in the Scottish prison where he was serving his sentence. To bestow freedom and the comforts of home on a man serving a life sentence for one of the most horrific acts of terrorism in modern times is a breathtaking abuse of power. Having shown not the slightest trace of mercy for his innocent victims, there was only one appropriate way for Megrahi to have returned home: in a box.

To recap: Megrahi was found guilty by a panel of three Scottish judges of planting the bomb that exploded Dec. 21, 1988, aboard Pan Am Flight 103, en route from London to New York. The resulting fireball transformed Lockerbie, a small Scottish village, into a ghastly tableau of carnage. The 189 Americans who died included many children and youths, among them several dozen students from Syracuse University. In addition to the passengers and crew, 11 people were killed on the ground.

Megrahi's joyful airport homecoming, which featured flag-waving crowds bused to the airport by the authorities, is proof that the government of Moammar Gadhafi feels not the slightest trace of remorse for the slaughter at Lockerbie, despite having admitted its complicity in the bombing and paid \$2.7 billion in compensation to the victims' families. It makes a mockery of Washington's decision to elevate Libya's status from international pariah to the community of civilized nations. If the Libyan regime does not heed the U.S. demand that Megrahi remain under house arrest until his death, the Obama administration should consider reinstituting sanctions.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



The diamonds under our feet

It seems that whenever a certain farmer plowed his field, his plow would strike "rocks" which made it very difficult to plant anything. Finally in desperation he sold his farm and went to seek his fortune elsewhere.

The next morning the new owner went out into the fields and began to farm. As before, his plow began to strike the same "rocks." However when the new farmer bent down to examine them, he saw that they had a sparkle to them. Puzzled by that, he took some to a store in the village. When the store owner saw them, he was amazed and shouted: "Where did you find these?"

"Why? I have whole fields of them," replied the startled farmer. As it was, the new farmer discovered a whole field of diamonds while the previous owner never recognized the potential of his fields. As you can imagine the new farmer became immensely wealthy, while the previous farmer died in poverty never finding the diamonds he had under his feet.

Let's examine some of the morals of the story:

1. When our attitude is right, we realize that we are all walking on acres of diamonds. Opportunity is always under our feet. We don't need to go anywhere. All we need to do is recognize it.

This past week the newspaper reported that about 20,000 people have left the island to seek their fortunes elsewhere. Of course, some of them are nonresident workers who returned to their homes. But many of them are local residents desperate to find suitable work. And the exodus has not subsided. But have they trained themselves in a trade or profession? Are they educated well enough to find good paying jobs?

When I hear of so many of our people leaving the islands to find better jobs elsewhere, I wonder if they ever will. Have they failed to see the diamonds here? Why is it that others are coming here and can find opportunities?

2. The grass is always greener on the other side.

This moral misleads so many of us into a dead end. We look over the fence and fail to realize that the green grass is being carefully cultivated by dedicated and determined people. Green grass needs tending, otherwise it becomes choked by weeds. When was the last time you tended your grass?

3. When people don't know how to recognize opportunity, they complain of noise when it knocks.

Often when I meet people on the street, they compliment me for some of the businesses I have or have begun. Of course, I am flattered, but in all honesty, I do not consider myself any smarter than any of them. Somehow God has given me the ability to see opportunities where others may not see them.

4. The same opportunity rarely knocks twice. The next one may be better or worse, but it is never the same one.

Tour agents are always seeking new things to sell to their clients. Are we selling to them the same way as before? Are we working out better deals with the airlines? Are we using any different approaches today that we did not do before to entice tourists? We must use dif-

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



ferent approaches. The beauty of our islands is a major diamond and we must learn how to harvest it better.

Let us examine some of the other diamonds we have under our feet. One of them is *work* that we are throwing away to foreign labors because we refuse to do it ourselves. As a result over 7,000 households are on welfare. To our shame the U.S. government has to give us \$12 million yearly to feed these same people.

At the same time, by using nonresident workers, we export over \$100 million yearly instead of keeping it in the community where it would turn over at least nine times to make a whopping amount of \$900 million. Imagine how easy it would be to borrow money or to spend it if the economy had that money floating in it. Consider the extra government income that could be used to improve our communities.

Another rock we step on daily without realizing that is really a diamond is that the government insists on keeping a double standard workforce. That diamond is a potentially powerful workforce.

The government will pay government workers twice and sometimes three times the minimum wage to do work that could be done at a much less cost by jobbing it out to local private contractors who would employ only local labor.

For example, why not job out the cutting of branches and cutting the grass along the highways to private firms? These firms would then hire local labors at a decent wage above the minimum wage yet below the government inflated wages, including all the fringe benefits and retirement contributions.

As a result we would have practically no unemployment. This can easily apply to other government jobs that result in wasted money. Think of all the savings. When will we learn that there better and cheaper ways to get good work done while benefiting the community?

Another diamond that we do not see is the privatizing of our utilities corporation and hospital. We keep insisting that we know how to operate these two agencies efficiently year after year. All the while the problems keep getting deeper and deeper. The utilities corporation equipment has become obsolete yet we keep putting bandages on the engines. When will we learn we don't know how to operate a power plant?

The hospital cannot hire competent doctors because we refuse

See THE DIAMONDS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The art of strategy

Strategic thinking is a favored phrase to delineate a phase in the progression of our knowing and doing, and vice versa. Between knowing and doing lies strategy. Our knowing produces a vision, a cognitive picture of where we are and where we want to go. Where we are is our experienced and appropriated story of our current situation. The word “recession” has been used to describe our current national and global economy. Our vision is more than just getting out of where we are; rather it entails pursuing that which we believe to be true to our nature and aspiration.

In our time, we aim for a sustainable economic development not only to benefit the knowledgeable few but also secure the general welfare of the many, and the wellbeing of the marginalized, forlorn, and differently-abled minority.

We desire democratic governance, to involve directly everyone whose lives are affected by decisions made, not just elect representatives who will speak for them. We want this process to be ongoing and not just during the election season.

We consider it important that people are proud of who they are, whoever they are; and are allowed to be, wherever they came from and whoever they want to be. “Just as I am without one plea,” remains a valid song of affirmation. It means that the multiplicity of our heritage and the diversity of our backgrounds is appropriated asset rather than a stumbling block in our new planetary identity.

Our doing entails a string of tactics, a series of actions orchestrated to achieve our vision by engaging personnel in implementing designed projects, and utilizing inventoried materials in designated places and scheduled times to structure and systematize one’s programmatic translation of one’s vision.

Strategy is the connection between our knowing and our doing, between the vision and the action. It is mental picture that gets us “there” from “here.” It describes what we hold to be true with what we are going to do about it.

So, what do we know? We are living on the downside of the fossil-fuel-driven industrial revolution that is coming to an end. Ours is no longer a choice of developing a better usage of fossil-fuel machines. The climatic upheaval caused by 200 years of industrial revolution is now coming to an end. The oil companies know this, and though they may delay the process, their Janus faces involve maximizing profits while it lasts, but hedging their bets on new renewable energy sources. Even India and China who wish to derail application of fossil fuel use on their emergent industries understand that we all live downwind and downriver, and that the action of one geography in the planet affects the survival of all. The survival zone extends way beyond the 12-mile limit!

Irensian Tanu Familia

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I mañainata ha presetba propiadat familia para i famaguon niha. Este na inadache kabales na intension gi hilu antau na tradision yan kutturán natibu pot i manatatte na hinerasion. I disposision tanu para i famaguon layeye (segun gi hiniñgoghu gi man-amkota siha) pot satbasion niha `nai ginacha` didog na chinatsaga i prohimu. Estague `nai libre i patgon dumisponi tanoña para u satba didog na chinatsagan familiaña. Pot satbasion!

Hu hassu pinituhu `nos kuantos años malofan `nai ti ma-emplelehayu ya taya apas para i solu gimahu. Yangin ti hu apase `nos kuantos mesis dispues, siempre u halom i bañku ya u kadena ayu na propiadat. Makat na pinadesi para maseha haye tinetpi. Uttimu disision i para baina` hanau i lugathu gi gualu Tagpochau. Mediu kinibre obligasionhu siha ya gumai kampuyu humaguñg dididi. Magahet na makat ayu na chinatsaga, lau taya esta kampu para bai reskatan maisayu gi otro manera. Muchumas sa` debi bai

At the current rate of usage, fossil fuel has at most, 100 years to play out its extinction, and this is the optimistic perspective. The global recession only indicates the temperature of our money supplies, its fluidity and accessibility, and the equitable spread of “money” value across the planet. It does not reflect denigration of our common natural resources of land, sea and the subterranean waters. It fails to measure the “happiness” index of our consumer markets grown inert by the false promises of hype and imaginative manipulation; nor does it assess the cost of curing our numerous addictions, mental and physical, to our dependence on things external to our essence and existence.

And what do we do? We get on a “hurry-cane” mode of doing. We no longer have the luxury of being passive participant observers. The ascendancy of the Obamas, the proven track record of the Tina Sablans, and the quixotic but effective drive of the Angelos into the local affairs of governance are welcome signs. They are not the only ones. This “hurry-cane” mode empowers the shouting of a loud “NO” by anyone to those who counsel caution while the Titanic is sinking, and a resounding “YES” to those who roll up their sleeves, line up their ducks and get their voices heard. The group VoteCNMI is coming to its own. Indigenous voices not born of the patronage trough is rearing up its head.

There are colleagues at PSS who will draw up curriculum for massive re-education to counter the doom-and-gloom of the cynical ones who have given up, and the reformulation of community context so that we see that “all the earth belongs to all the people” is not a pronouncement of dogma, but a fair conclusion of comprehensive science, contemporary social studies, and relevant ethics. We are building communities where people can belong. Maybe ACT can accelerate the effort.

In this “hurry-cane” mode, we promote democratic governance. Even as we decry the conversion of the Commonwealth government into the employment agency for the indigenous population who elected the current occupants of executive positions, we increase the incidences of public conversations, even turning town hall meetings into real community forums where someone like Kilili gets up for 10 minutes to update the public of what his office is up to, and then spend the next hour and 50 minutes listening to a facilitated conversation of the community’s vision, their felt needs and analyzed contradictions, and turn finger pointing and the blame game into occasions of identifying new directions to be undertaken in simple doable bites. Foot soldiers know that the difference between life and death is the clarity of the tactics.

Classrooms and public gathering places can become venues for such conversations where the end products are green or magnetic boards written with suggested actions and targeted schedules. After

kubri apas eskuelan i inutit na lahihu. Ayu `nai hu komprende hafa sustansiaña irensian tanu ginen mañainata. Hana` humiddiyu ayu na ayudon mañainahu. Baihu repite: Pot Satbasion! Dudayu kau guaha otro fiñkas para tai-guine na gotpen familia. I ninaen` nana yan tata solu gai bali gi uttimu besis. Dañkulu sentimientoghu pot ayu na tanu. Deste eskuelanteyu yan mañeluhu, kada uttimon semana man-hanau ham para i gualu Tagpochau. Deste ogaan esta`i minachom atdau, kada unu debi u fan dismonta yan hali` man-lodu` tañgantañgan. Dispues, chuli` i kuha ya un` tutuhon man-guadog `sino mamuha odda para choda, suni, kamuti, nika, dagu yan otro siha agumon haya. Mauleg na guaha siha hagas tinanum sunin agaga yan bisaya. Estague tutuhon mame man-mananum agumon haya. Sessu lokue in` tinu man-dañkulon umañg para totchen taluane. Lau linachai dispues ni hilitai kontodo ayuyu. Man-magof ham gi dididi` na guinahan mame gi nina` siñan dos himiddi yan poble na matriatkan yan patriatkan familia.

Todo man-mapatte tanu guihe na fina gualu. Kontodu As Perdidido mana` fan parehu todos patten niha. Unu ha` na propiadat

our lives more pleasant be privatized? Please educate me. Other communities have done so quite successfully. Yet another diamond is our unused land that could be used for farming. We are blessed with year-round good weather. By pooling our resources and learning better farm methods, we could harvest enough produce and fruits for export. We could also lease some of the land to developers to build retirement communities. For many years we have discussed this idea but to date it remains only talk. When will we learn that the diamonds are right under our feet? Consider the diamond that applies to the military buildup in Guam. If we develop the right attitude and cooperation with the U.S. government, we will find a solution to a great part of our economical woes.

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

such meetings, we need no longer look down on the floor and check how much of the slings and arrows of our outrage that we managed to fling made their targets, but realize that they were simply wasted efforts from energy that could have been utilized elsewhere.

There are three strategic directions we can take. There are those who wish to continue with the track that we are already in, only do it better. Unfortunately, President Obama seems to be stuck in this mode. The corporate heads want to continue with fossil fuel cars, only get better mileage. Some still dream of discovering clean coal, or negotiate carbon exchange with countries in geographical locations where the planting of trees still remain a profitable option. There are those who think that replacing the current “corrupt and ineffective” crop of executives with new ones will do the job. For as long as we continue with the hope that the industrial revolution remains an option for the rest of world, only that the industrialized nations would do a better job at leading it, then we do not understand the gravity of the crisis we are in.

There are those who will stand at the edge of the Banzai cliff of their minds, and counsel anyone within hearing to pray for the apocalypse, usher Armageddon, and let the millennial reign of the Christ, or whatever incarnation the role had lately taken (socialist, communist, or otherwise), prevail. These folks demand a cataclysmic reversal of reality so that what currently is prevailing is totally destroyed, and a reconstruction of the new begins.

The first are establishmentarians, the second, disestablishmentarians (sorry Counselor, could not find better terms!). The third option is, you guessed it, transestablishmentarians. Ignore the terms. We mean here a third position that honors that which had worked and needs conserving, but will not hesitate to junk dead wood. This is not the muddled middle, or the center that will not hold. It is a determined and an active pursuit for both responsible disobedience, and critical strategic thinking where intentionality and purpose in the exercise of personal freedom and social responsibility commands the day.

Might we have conversations of this nature organized? Interested? jrvergarajr@aol.com.

umestotbayu `nai mabendi dispues, era i hagas gima familia giya Chalan Kanoa. Riku estorian ayu na tanu. Lau dispues tai bali sa` Amerikanu kiñaduhu ni fuma` bentan lateria ayu na propiadat. Estague` i diffirensian natibu yan otro tautau gi impottansian tanu natibu. Lau muñga man-madagi pot irensian tanu. Ya yangin guaha kampu, maulegña na un` adahe para `an mattu ayu na gotpi `nai debi un` dispone pot satbasion familiamu. Sen Mas, Si Yuus Maase`! Sessu na tiempu hu huñgog kulan fagas pachot na guaha gi entre tautauta ti man-kualifikau mangai tanu segun i probision Attikulu XII. Ke lau haye siña tumulaika disposision patriatkan `sino matriatkan familia pot tanu niha? Na ti dueñu dumisponi haye para u irensia nu i tanoña? Metgot na lai prumutetehe este na grupon natibu. Siempre u fan dueñon tanu sa` manma-irensia nu i mañainan niha tanu parehu yan pumalu siha membron familia.

Mafaisen si kayu hafa na difirensian “count” yan “account”. Ilegña: “Count `nai guiya ayu i, ‘one, two, three, four, five....’ Pagu account ayu i: a-one, a-two, a-three, a-four, a-five”. De dios!

THE DIAMONDS

From Page 10

to pay them the salaries they deserve. Supplies to operate the hospital are in short supply. Yet we have outstanding collections of almost \$20 million. The irony is that many invoices for hospital care are mailed out after one or two years. In fact I have received hospital bills from almost two years’ prior care. Little effort is made to make collections of these overdue accounts. Meanwhile the service continues to deteriorate. When will we learn that we don’t know how to operate a hospital? Why can’t these two basic institutions so sorely needed to make

I could go on and on. I see the CNMI as a sleeping giant that I hope will wake up one day and realize that we are blessed with many diamonds. The stones under our feet are diamonds if we wish them to be. Start looking. I do every day. Let me leave you with this parting quote: “The budget should be balanced, the treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance.” —Cicero, 55 B.C. The above was true over two thousand years ago. When will we learn? Diamonds are all around us! Bend down and pick them up. Have a great day.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 73
Kosrae	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Majuro	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79

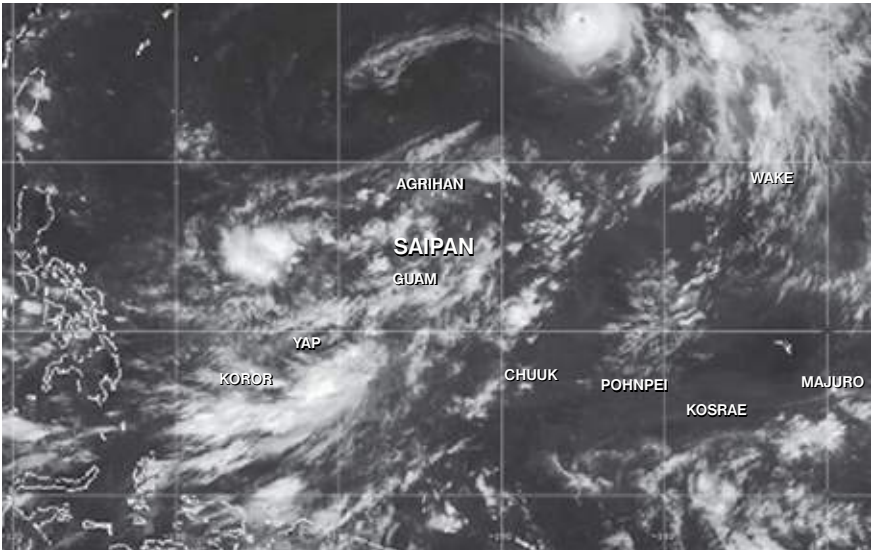
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 51
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 68
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 90 ▼ 79
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 76
London	Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 57
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 64
Manila	Rain	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 62 ▼ 46
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲ 90 ▼ 79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 67
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 67
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 64
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 68
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 64
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 51
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 55
Seoul	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 66
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 69
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 68

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:27 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:22 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:34 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
10:21 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from Taiwan to a weak circulation centered west of Marianas near 16N138E then continues northeastward to beyond 25N at 154E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring along the monsoon trough axis north of Yap and over the cnmi within 80 miles of a line from 14N134E to 20N150E. Converging west winds south of the monsoon trough are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Koror but just south of Yap within 160 miles of a line from 3N131E to 9N143E. Converging south winds east of the monsoon trough are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of the Marianas between 9N and 18N from 148E to 155E and over Wake Island or north of a line from 18N158E to 19N170E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers from south of Kosrae and Majuro to the dateline within 135 miles of a line from EQ163E to 9N180 and also farther north between 11N and 16N from 170E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:23 AM	9:15 PM
Tuesday	10:18 AM	9:59 PM
Wednesday	11:14 AM	10:45 PM
Thursday	12:09 PM	11:33 PM
Friday	1:03 PM	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ716/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letters to the Editor

Better Lies

My wife Daisy and I feel truly blessed with the birth of our new son, Kaden, who was born at 4am on Friday, Aug.t 21. I would like to thank Dr. Taro and the CHC doctors and nurses who showered and pampered my wife and son with tender loving care

We are thankful for the many kind wishes we received through phone calls, e-mails, texts, and of course Facebook. Family and friends also dropped by and brought food, gifts, and flowers. How very thoughtful and loving, and how wonderful it is to be interconnected with family and friends around the world. The world indeed has grown smaller with

The moral and right thing to do

I was reading the “reactions” to an article in *Honolulu Advertiser*, “Pacific Islanders demand benefits (Aug. 8, 2009). Micronesians are not seeking handouts. They are asking for what is legally promised and dictated in the language of the Compact of Free Association between the U.S. and FSM. The Micronesian islands cover a very large area in the Pacific south of Honolulu. When Pearl Harbor was attacked to the point where the U.S. woke up, it was only possible because the Micronesian islands were in the hands of the enemy then. To secure Honolulu and its interest, the United

Who will believe the CRMO

Who will believe the CRMO if they cannot implement their own directives?

Sometimes in July 2009, CRMO issued a notice in the local newspaper that effective Aug. 1, 2009, it will remove boats left in the lagoon without proper anchor lights or white all-around lights after daylight, claiming that these boats pose a danger to marine safety of nighttime boaters and fishermen, even if they were only 10 meters away from the shoreline and out of boaters’ navigable waters. CRMO said it will remove or impound any boats found not complying with the notice. Well, according to one staff of the CRMO, they gave a leeway time of seven days—or up to Aug. 7, 2009—for boat owners to comply so that people cannot say that CRMO doesn’t have the heart for boat owners.

However, here is the true picture of their directive after Aug. 7, 2009. While there are some boat owners who complied with their notice and removed their boats, *there are still some boats anchored inside the lagoon after daylight and without anchor lights and the CRMO did nothing about them.* Why? Oh, do we have to mention that one of the boats is owned by a local fellow. Ah, the other big boat is owned by a parasailing corporation and they cannot pull the boat for whatever reason they

the advancement of communication technology!

Everything seemed perfect as we checked out of CHC on Saturday and went home. We were so excited to bring our new baby boy home. Alas, all good things must come to an end. You see, the power in our village went out at 3pm. 4pm came, still no power. 5pm, taya power. 6pm, frustrated parents and sweaty kids. 7pm, we got tempted to call CUC Trouble Desk but realized that would be an exercise in futility. Finally, at 8pm, the power went on. *A five-hour power outage!*

I don’t care if a brown tree snake caused the five-hour power outage, or falling tangan tangan, or whether a car or a flying pig hit a power pole. The point is, a five-hour power outage is a five-hour power outage.

Perhaps I should build a house right next door to Governor Fitial, so that every time the power goes out, I can run a long extension

cord and “borrow” some of his power. Why not? I’ve been paying for his power bill for his mansion all these years as a taxpayer. Am I not entitled to some payback?

The next time I hear Governor Fitial claim that CUC is “no longer broken,” I will also think about how he once promised the people of the CNMI he wouldn’t use CNMI taxpayers’ money to sue the U.S. over federalization.

Forget about Better Times. It is nothing more than Better Lies when it comes to this administration. See you at the polls in November, Uncle Ben! Until then, you might want to forget about having Aggreko leave in September.

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

sians in order to fulfill their Compact promise. All the Micronesians working in these host states and territories are paying a very fair share of their tax. We have Micronesians currently fighting in the war against terror all around the world serving in the U.S. military Air Force, Navy, you name it. We even have several casualties that came back home in coffins for the freedoms we all enjoy.

To turn around and cut Micronesians from their health benefits is like asking to give up a security treaty. If any of the states feel that they are short on funds, it is their obligation to make a case with the federal government and legally obtain the appropriate fund. It is the only moral and right thing to do. There is no need to discriminate other people for that matter.

Alfonis M. Sound
Dandan, Saipan


Clarification

First of all, thank you for printing my letter in the Aug. 22, 2009, edition of the newspaper.

I want to bring to your attention that the original letter e-mailed to you by Ms. Tania Mesa was altered by your staff to include specific date and time of the troop’s arrival that were not mentioned on the letter. Those specific information were not approved by our Unit Commander, and therefore should never been mentioned.

I want the editor to inform the general public that those information were provided by your staff and not through my letter. As the Family Readiness Group (FRG) Leader, I have protocols to follow and details of troop movements is prohibited.

Rita Chargualaf
FRG Leader
100 BN 442nd, E Co Det1




COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-09-023

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009



The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

- OMB Circular A-133
- Standards for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Functions, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.
- Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The following information must be included in the audit proposal:

- Title Page**
 - RFP Subject
 - Name of Firm
 - Local Address
 - Telephone Number
 - Name of Contact Persons
 - Submission Date
- Transmittal Letter**
 - A brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform the work within the time period stipulated.
 - State all inclusive fees for which the audit will be performed.
- Firm's Profile**
 - Provide a brief description of your firm's personnel professional/educational background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and client listing.
 - The firm shall make an affirmative statement that at least the partners are certified public accountants.

The date of contract award will be no later than September 30, 2009. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2010.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-RFP-09-023**” to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, 96950, no later than **3:00 p.m., local time, on September 8, 2009.**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Approach to Project (25 maximum points)
- Qualifications of the Principal and Proposed Staff (25 maximum points)
- Experience on Similar Projects (25 maximum points)
- Time to Complete the Project (20 maximum points)
- Cost (5 maximum points)

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be directed to Mr. Antonio S. Muna, CUC Executive Director, at (670) 235-7025 – 7032, extension 124.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in any proposal if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE NMI RETIREMENT FUND

The Board of Trustees, NMI Retirement Fund, proposes to adopt resolutions to protect the Retirement Fund’s assets for all Fund members by any means necessary until such time as the Fund is no longer in a fiscal emergency, as follows:

Board Resolution No. 09-002 “Non-Recognition of Retiree Adoptions for Survivor Benefits Purposes” – proposes to restrict the Fund from processing any amendments or additions to originally filed Applications for Retirement that would add beneficiaries arising through adoption for purposes of the computation of survivor benefits.

Board Resolution No. 09-003 “To Cease Payment of Employee Contribution Refunds” – proposes for the Fund to cease processing refunds of employee contributions.

The Board of Trustees will hold public hearings to hear the comments of Fund members and the general public on these Board resolutions, published in the Saipan Tribune on July 15, 2009 and available from the Fund website at www.nmiretirement.com, as follows:

Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 6:00 PM

Superior Courthouse, San Jose, Tinian

Friday, August 28, 2009, 6:30 PM

Rota Round House, Songsong Village, Rota

NMI Retirement Fund members and the public are encouraged to participate.

Saipan families seek the return of WWII-era remains

By DAVID ALLEN and CHIYOMI SUMIDA
STARS AND STRIPES, PACIFIC EDITION

Editor's Note: This story was originally published in the Stars and Stripes on Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009.

CHATAN, Okinawa—They are long dead, but not forgotten.

The skulls and bones of several Japanese soldiers and civilians who died in the Battle of Saipan during World War II are stirring up memories and controversy on both sides of the Pacific.

After an Aug. 16 story in the San Francisco Chronicle revealed that the skeletal remains are housed in a vault at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology on the University of California, Berkeley campus, descendants of

Japanese families who lived on Saipan during the war are demanding the remains be returned and properly buried.

The bones, removed from Saipan by a Navy doctor after the battle and kept in his private collection until he donated them to the museum in 1974, were used in researching osteology—the study of bones.

University officials have sent letters to Japanese authorities offering to return the bones, and queried the Defense Department for legal advice on whether they were improperly obtained, the Chronicle reported Friday.

University spokesman Dan Mogulof told the newspaper the letters will not be made public until Japanese and U.S. military officials respond.

“We have just begun to review the issue to determine how the government should respond

to the situation,” a spokesman for the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, which oversees war dead and war victims’ affairs, told Stars and Stripes on Friday.

A spokesman for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told the Chronicle she has made inquiries to the Defense Department, which is researching the issue to determine whether the bones were taken illegally and what should be done with them.

Experts in international law claim the United States is violating the Geneva Conventions by allowing the museum to possess and perform scientific research on the skeletons, which should have been treated as war dead. International laws and U.S. military regulations call for the honorable treatment of war victims.

Meanwhile, the Japanese community on Saipan and

battle survivors now living on Okinawa expressed shock at the situation.

“If they are remains of Japanese, they should be returned to Japan, where they rightfully belong,” said Ayako Matsumoto during a telephone interview Wednesday from her office in Saipan. “Because the university has had them for such a long time, any research should have long [been] done.”

Matsumoto, originally from Hyogo prefecture and a resident of Saipan for 20 years, owns a trading company with her husband. The couple also volunteers to care for war memorials scattered across the island.

She said that there are still many bones that remain uncollected on the island.

“It just breaks my heart when I think how much they must

have longed to go back to their homeland,” she said of the remains stored at the university.

Zenichi Taira, 79, chairman of the Okinawan Association of Returnees from Saipan, said he was amazed to learn that the WWII-era bones are in the U.S.

“After the war, when all Japanese survivors departed the island, there was a strict order by U.S. military that we could not take remains with us,” he said during a phone interview Thursday. Some remains left behind were cremated a few years afterward when Japanese groups were allowed to return to the island.

“Ashes were taken back to Japan and they are now kept at Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery in Tokyo,” he said.

The cemetery, established by the Japanese government,

houses the remains of 352,297 unidentified Japanese who died overseas during World War II.

On Saipan, an estimated 40,000 Japanese soldiers and 12,000 civilians died in the battle, many of them by jumping off a cliff to avoid the humiliation of surrendering, said Taira, who was a 15-year-old student at the time. After the battle he spent a year and half in a refugee camp set up by the U.S. military in the northern part of the island, he said.

“I hope that the bones in Berkeley will be returned to Japan so that they can rest in peace, joining with their fellow victims at Chidorigafuchi,” Taira said. “I do not understand why they have to have been humiliated like that as subject of research for such a long time. It certainly lacks respect to the dead.”

Khorram article on cataract surgery published



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. David Khorram is the medical director of the Marianas Eye Institute.

Dr. David Khorram’s expertise in the field of cataract surgery has been recognized with the publication of an article he authored.

The article, “Phacoemulsification of the White Cataract” was published in the magazine, *Ophthalmology Management*, which is received by 20,000 ophthalmologists in the United States and internationally.

Khorram is the medical director of Marianas Eye Institute.

A cataract is a clouding of the natural lens inside the eye, which leads to blurred vision. After removal of a cataract, vision can return to normal.

Khorram explained that here in the CNMI, many people do not access eye care in a timely manner. So the cataracts stay in the eye for a long time and become totally white.

“In the United States, it is rare for an ophthalmologist to have to operate on a white cataract, but here, I perform this surgery on these challenging white cataracts almost every week,” he said.

Operating on a white cataract is much different than operating on regular cataracts. If a sur-

geon is not aware of the pitfalls of the white cataract, and tries to use the same technique on a white cataract, significant problems can arise.

“In the article, I drew upon the things I’ve learned through my experience with these cases, and outlined the procedure I have developed and refined through the years,” explained Khorram. “By sharing my technique with other eye surgeons, I hope to help my colleagues in other parts of the world avoid problems during the surgery.”

In the article, Khorram wrote of slaying the “six monsters” that can cause difficulty during the surgery. “Cataract surgery is very delicate, and performed through a microscope. The white cataract has higher risks, and for this reason I encourage my patients to not wait until the vision is so cloudy before undertaking the surgery,” Khorram added.

“It didn’t really cross my mind to write this article until I was at a conference and commented on the number of white cataracts that I operate on. Other ophthalmologists started asking

me questions about my technique, and I realized I ought to share the information with a wider audience. I’m glad my colleagues in other parts of the world have found my technique helpful,” said Khorram.

Dr. Khorram performs cataract surgery most weeks.

Both Khorram, and Dr. Roberson, the clinic’s physicians, have received national recognition for their work in eye care.

“August is cataract awareness month, and we’re taking this opportunity to educate the community on the ease with which cataracts can be treated,” said Russ Quinn, CEO of Marianas Eye Institute. “Blurred vision is not something that has to be tolerated. Most people with blurred vision simply need glasses, but in cases where more advanced care is needed, we’re happy to provide high level of care at Marianas Eye Institute.”

Marianas Eye Institute is on Beach Road across 13 Fishermen Monument in Garapan. Call them at 235-9090, or through www.MarianasEye.com. (PR)

New dental plan launched for active-duty servicemembers

FALLS CHURCH, Va.—A new dental program that began Aug. 1 is now available to active-duty servicemembers.

The new Active Duty Dental Program becomes the dental care plan for active-duty servicemembers assigned to locations with no access to a military dental facility. ADDP is also for service members referred by their dental treatment facility to the civilian network for specialty care or due to unavailability of timely DTF appointments.

TRICARE Prime Remote enrollees—active-duty servicemembers with duty stations and residences more than 50 miles from a military dental facility—are eligible for ADDP. Reservists and National Guardsmen activated for more than 30 consecutive days on federal orders and who live more than 50 miles from a military dental facility are also eligible for ADDP on their activation date.

ADSMs who live in remote locations, but work within 50 miles of a dental treatment facility will continue to be seen at a DTF.

Of the more than 81,000 dental claims filed each year by active-duty servicemembers, approximately 31 percent of them come from servicemembers living and working in remote locations. In the past, the Military Medical Sup-

port Office of the TRICARE Management Activity handled remote dental claims and referrals from DTFs. United Concordia, Inc., will now handle these claims and referrals through the new ADDP under a contract awarded in September 2008.

ADSMs using the ADDP will be able to take advantage of United Concordia’s network of dentists and specialists. No enrollment is required.

“United Concordia will establish an extensive dental provider network covering the United States, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands,” said Navy Capt. Robert Mitton, TMA dental program director. “TRICARE wants to ensure a high level of beneficiary satisfaction as well as controlling costs.”

Letters and brochures are being mailed to ADSMs in remote locations to inform them of the new ADDP program. To download the brochure, click the dental section under the appropriate region on the TRICARE Smart site at <http://www.tricare.mil/tricaresmart>.

Learn more about dental plans and getting care at <http://www.addp-ucci.com> and <http://www.tricare.mil/dental>. (TRICARE)

ON THE NET

- <http://www.tricare.mil/tricaresmart>
- <http://www.addp-ucci.com>
- <http://www.tricare.mil/dental>



VACATION TIME

Lulu Johnson of City Trust Bank Saipan with her friend Lulu Tiongson arrived last night for a four-day visit in Canada. The family of Ferdie and Lanie Santos, Allan and Juliet Lacamana, Harry and Marge Escudero, Elmer and Bing Chavez, Mer and Jackie Ayuson and Mar and Lynn Marcelino, welcome them with a dinner party.

BING E. CHAVEZ

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Vicky T. Cabrera, center, who is celebrating her birthday today, Aug. 24, and belated birthday greetings to Roy D. Rechebei, second from left, who celebrated his birthday yesterday, Aug. 23, 2009! Greetings come from your friend and coworkers at the Joeten-Kiyu

Public Library.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Business

World is emerging from its deep slump but can it last?

By **TOM RAUM**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Turnabouts in European and Asian economies, along with recent gains in the U.S., are raising hopes that that the worldwide recession is drawing to a close. That's not to say the coast is clear.

The brightening outlook in Europe and Asia and the improvement in U.S. credit markets and indicators reflect heavy government stimulus spending. Many analysts question whether the top economies can sustain recoveries after stimulus measures and easy-credit policies have run their course - and in the absence of significant new consumer spending, especially among Americans.

After a year of crisis, Bernanke star is rising

WASHINGTON (AP)—Last year, as the gravest financial crisis since the Great Depression shook the banking system, Ben Bernanke seemed nearly as beleaguered as the institutions themselves.

The Federal Reserve chief had initially underestimated the crisis—and then seemed to inject new risk by unleashing breathtaking sums of money to fight it. Now, a strengthening economy is raising Bernanke's standing just as President Barack Obama must decide whether to reappoint him.

His supporters say Bernanke, 55, a scholar of the Great Depression, has the knowledge and ability to guide a sustain-

"It's not clear that these economies can continue to move forward without stimulus," said Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Economy.com. "And that's in part why stock markets across the globe are nervous."

It will be difficult for other countries to pull out of recession until the U.S., still one quarter of the world economy, starts growing, he said.

After a frightening free-fall across Europe in late 2008, France and Germany, the continent's two largest economies, reported recently that they had grown slightly in the second quarter of 2009. Other major European countries reported they were still struggling, but with generally improved figures over late 2008 and earlier

this year.

China, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea have also reported rebounds as government stimulus efforts across the globe have begun to show results.

Russia, among the hardest hit of major economies as oil prices slumped and many foreign investors fled the country, appeared to be stabilizing.

Meanwhile, in the United States, the Federal Reserve said the world's largest economy appeared to be "leveling out" and many economists see a second-half rebound.

It all adds up to an improving picture ahead of an economic summit next month in Pittsburgh of the world's top 20 industrial and developing economies.

able recovery without igniting inflation. And they argue that without his bold interventions, the global financial crisis could have been much worse.

"He has risen to the occasion admirably after what you might argue was a slow start," says Alan Blinder, a Princeton professor who was Fed vice chairman in the mid-1990s. "His performance merits reappointment."

Bernanke, having just wrapped up the Fed's annual conference in Jackson Hole, Wyo., remains under pressure to help speed a recovery. Joblessness, now at 9.4 percent, is expected to hit double digits this year. Yet his riskiest task is to decide when and how to unwind the Fed's emer-

gency rescue programs without endangering the economy.

His critics see failures in Bernanke's performance. They say he overplayed his hand by swelling the Fed's balance sheet to nearly \$2 trillion, a once-unthinkable threshold.

They argue that the success of the emergency rescue programs has been inconsistent. And they blame Bernanke for politicizing the Fed: They point, for example, to his role in deciding which banks would benefit from taxpayer-funded bailouts and which would not.

"His handling of the crisis has put the Fed in an awkward political position," says William Poole, former president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, who doesn't think Bernanke should be reappointed.



Bernanke

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Large Texas bank shut down by federal regulators

WASHINGTON (AP)—Guaranty Bank became the second-largest U.S. bank to fail this year after the Texas lender was shut down by regulators and most of its operations sold at a loss of billions of dollars for the U.S. government to a major Spanish bank. The transaction approved by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. marked the first time a foreign bank has bought a failed U.S. bank. The bank failure, the 10th largest in U.S. history, is expected to cost the deposit insurance fund an estimated \$3 billion. The FDIC seized Austin-based Guaranty Bank, with about \$13 billion in assets and \$12 billion in deposits, and on Friday sold all of its deposits and \$12 billion of its assets to BBVA Compass, the U.S. division of Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA, Spain's second-

largest bank.

Report: Honda to sell electric cars in US

TOKYO (AP)—Honda Motor Co. plans to introduce electric vehicles in the U.S. early next decade, joining a growing number of automakers vying for the lead in clean technology development, local media reported Saturday. Japan's second-biggest car maker, which has focused on gas-electric hybrids so far, is building an all-electric prototype to be unveiled at the Tokyo Motor Show in October, according to the Nikkei financial newspaper. It said Honda would begin sales of electric vehicles in the United States in the first half of the decade. Honda released its new Insight earlier this year, billing it as the cheapest gas-electric hybrid on the market, to compete with Toyota Motor Corp.'s top-selling Prius.

EU names airlines that must limit emissions

BRUSSELS (AP)—Nearly 4,000 commercial airlines, business jet operators and air forces from around the world will have to join the European Union greenhouse gas emissions trading plan by 2012 or be penalized when flying to the continent, the EU said Saturday. The bloc's official gazette published Saturday the list of operators, which includes major airlines such as Lufthansa, Alitalia, Quantas, KLM, Emirates, US Airways and United. Also listed are European airplane manufacturers Airbus and Dassault, hundreds of private business jet operators, as well as a number of military services such as the U.S. Navy and the air forces of Israel and Russia.

Nation

Four Kentucky inmates still in hospital after prison riot

Fires are seen at Northpoint Training Center, a medium-security men's prison in Mercer County where inmates have set fire to at least two buildings.

AP



BURGIN, Ky. (AP)—Four prisoners remained hospitalized and hundreds of others had to be relocated Saturday after rioting inmates set their central Kentucky prison on fire.

Flames shot into the air during the melee Friday night, seriously damaging several buildings, and parts of the medium-security Northpoint Training Center continued to smolder nearly 24 hours later.

The 500 inmates who remained at the prison 30 miles south of Lexington were being compliant, said Jennifer Brislin, spokeswoman for the Kentucky Justice and Public

Safety Cabinet.

About 700 others were being taken to other facilities across the state. In some cases that meant inmates were double-bunking or sleeping in gyms or other secure buildings inside prisons.

Officials would not say what caused the rioting, which injured eight staff members and eight prisoners. None of the injured staffers were hospitalized, said Cheryl Million, a spokeswoman for the Kentucky Department of Corrections. Authorities would not provide conditions for the inmates still being treated.

Those who remained at Northpoint were getting food and medical care from temporary stations because the fire destroyed six buildings, including a kitchen, medical center, canteen and visitation area. They were to be moved into a 196-bed dormitory that remained habitable, as well as a unit of single cells.

The disturbance started Friday evening when prisoners set fire to trash cans and other items inside and outside the prison. All fires were contained by 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Brislin said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Probe: Private's death reveals cruelty by soldiers

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—The investigation into the death of a U.S. soldier in Iraq revealed cruelty and maltreatment by other soldiers who have been charged with treating soldiers in their platoon inappropriately, the U.S. military said Saturday. The evidence of maltreatment became clear during the investigation into the death of Pvt. Keiffer Wilhelm, Multi-National Division-South spokesman Lt. Col. Kevin Olson wrote in an e-mail. Wilhelm, 19, of Plymouth, Ohio, died Aug. 4 in Maysan province in southern Iraq, of injuries sustained from a noncombat-related incident, the military said. The military announced Friday that four soldiers had been charged with cruelty and maltreatment and reckless endangerment.

Police scour Canada for millionaire murder suspect

BUENA PARK, Calif. (AP)—Canadian authorities on Saturday intensified the manhunt for the millionaire reality TV star accused of murdering a former swimsuit model and stuffing her naked, mutilated body in a

suitcase. The search for Ryan Alexander Jenkins, a 32-year-old real estate developer and investor from Calgary, is centered around Vancouver and British Columbia, said Peter Van Loan, Canada's public safety minister. The Mounted Police are leading the manhunt for Jenkins, who is suspected of strangling Jasmine Fiore and then reporting her missing the evening of Aug. 15 before fleeing.

Man stole Virgin Mary painting for abortion

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—A Nebraska man who stole a painting of the Virgin Mary to finance an abortion for a teen he raped has been convicted of first-degree sexual assault and felony theft. Aurelio Vallerillo-Sanchez, 39, of Omaha pleaded no contest to the charges Friday and faces up to 70 years in prison when sentenced in October, Douglas County prosecutor Brenda Beadle said Saturday. Beadle said Vallerillo-Sanchez fled to Mexico with the 300-year-old painting worth \$100,000 and the pregnant teen in March 2007. "The plan was that when they got to Mexico, she was to undergo an abortion," she said. Beadle said: "He wanted to do everything he could to get rid of

this baby 'cause it was evidence against him."

FBI director outraged by Lockerbie bomber release

WASHINGTON (AP)—FBI Director Robert Mueller sharply criticized Scotland's justice minister for releasing the Lockerbie bomber, an act that "gives comfort to terrorists" all over the world. Mueller sent a letter to Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill, who cited compassionate grounds in his decision to let Abdel Baset al-Megrahi return to Libya because he has prostate cancer and was given only months to live by British doctors. The angry tone of the letter is out of character with the normally reserved Mueller, indicating his outrage is personal as well as professional. He also sent copies to the families of the Lockerbie victims. "I have made it a practice not to comment on the actions of other prosecutors," Mueller wrote. "Your decision to release Megrahi causes me to abandon that practice in this case. I do so because I am familiar with the facts, and the law. ... And I do so because I am outraged at your decision, blithely defended on the grounds of 'compassion.'"

Asia

NKorean delegation meets with the South's president

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A high-level North Korean delegation conveyed a message from leader Kim Jong Il to the South Korean president during a rare meeting Sunday in the latest sign of warming ties on the tense Korean peninsula.

President Lee Myung-bak and three North Korean officials discussed inter-Korean cooperation during the half-hour meeting at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, Lee spokesman Lee Dong-kwan said. He said the message from Kim Jong Il, conveyed verbally, addressed "progress on South-North Ko-

rean cooperation" but refused to provide further details.

The Blue House meeting - the first since Lee took office about 18 months ago - took place just hours before the funeral of Kim Dae-jung, the former South Korean president who met with Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang in 2000 for a historic Korean summit.

The late Kim, a longtime dissident-turned-president who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to reach out to the communist North with his "Sunshine Policy" of reconciliation, died Tuesday at the age of 85.

The two Koreas remain in a

state of war because their three-year conflict ended in 1953 in a truce, not a peace treaty. Tanks and troops still guard the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone dividing the two sides.

Kim Dae-jung, who served as president from 1998 to 2003, advocated engaging the isolated, nuclear-armed North, and sought to ease reconciliation by plying the impoverished nation with aid. At their breakthrough 2000 meeting, he and Kim Jong Il agreed on a series of reconciliation projects that saw a flowering of relations between the rivals.

Taiwan: Typhoon claimed 650 lives

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The death toll from Typhoon Morakot was raised to at least 650 Sunday after the worst weather disaster to hit Taiwan in half a century.

Premier Liu Chao-shiuan said 160 were confirmed killed, with another 490 listed as missing and presumed dead. DNA tests will be conducted on battered bodies that authorities have not yet been able to identify, Liu said.

The storm that hit two weeks ago triggered landslides and widespread flooding that trapped thousands of people in remote southern villages for days.

Television footage Sunday showed soldiers and students scrubbing homes and streets in the southern city of Linbian in Pingtung county, which was still flooded in knee-deep waters because drainage ditches were blocked by debris.

Hundreds of soldiers in camouflage also waded through floodwaters to the area where



Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou, second left, walks on the flooded street and listens to a survivor in Linbian following Typhoon Morakot hit the area, Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009, in Kaohsiung, southern Taiwan.

homes once stood in Shiao Lin, the village hardest-hit by massive mudslides.

Some were searching for floating bodies. Others were

preparing to dig up the more than 400 bodies believed buried under several yards (meters) of mud, said military relief operation spokesman Tai Chan-teh.

RP police arrest alleged terror leader

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police on Friday arrested the alleged leader of a radical Islamist group believed to be responsible for one of Southeast Asia's deadliest terror attacks.

Dinno-Amor Rosales Pareja, also known as Khalil Pareja, was taken into custody in southern Marawi City and is being held without bail, said national police spokesman Senior Superintendent Leonardo Espina. Other details of his arrest were not immediately available. He is accused of rebelling against

the state.

Pareja is allegedly the leader of the Rajah Solaiman Movement, a group of Christian converts to Islam that U.S. and Philippine officials say is allied with two al-Qaida-linked groups—the regional terror network Jemaah Islamiyah and the Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim extremist group based in the southern Philippines.

The group is believed to be behind the 2004 ferry bombing that killed 116 people in Manila Bay. It was the second-most deadly terrorist attack in South-

east Asia after the 2002 attack on the Indonesian resort island of Bali that killed 202 people.

Espina said Pareja is believed to have taken over leadership of the group following the arrest in 2005 of Hilarion Santos, the movement's leader and Pareja's brother-in-law.

The Rajah Solaiman and its Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah allies also have been blamed for a series of bombings in 2005 that killed about eight people and wounded 150 others in Manila and two southern cities.

Pakistan suicide bomber blows self up

MINGORA, Pakistan (AP)—The army says a suicide bomber has blown himself up to evade capture during a raid in a town in Pakistan's troubled northwestern Swat Valley.

The army says they spotted

the bomber Saturday during a search of a residential area of Kanju, a town north of Swat's main city of Mingora. Spokesman Lt. Col. Akhtar Abbas says security forces chased the man, who ran into a house and blew

himself up.

Abbas would not say whether anyone else was wounded in the explosion. Local media said two security officials were killed and two others were wounded.

World

Fires reach Athens suburbs, as thousands are evacuated

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A massive wildfire tore through outlying suburbs north of Athens early Sunday, destroying homes and forcing thousands to flee in dramatic overnight evacuations, Fire Service and local officials said.

The fires near the capital raged for a third day, blackening thousands of hectares of rugged land covered by pine forest or thick bushes. Anti-aircraft missiles at a nearby base were removed as flames approached, the army said.

"The situation is tragic. Fires are out of control on many fronts," greater Athens local governor Yiannis Sgouros said.

A state of emergency was declared in greater Athens, in the worst destruction seen here since massive fires struck southern Greece in 2007 and killed more than 70 people.

After daybreak, planes and helicopters resumed water drops following an eight-hour pause that allowed the wildfire to spread across parts of Mount Penteli and reach suburban homes. Clouds of black smoke filled the capital's skyline and obscured the sun.

Authorities evacuated two large children's hospitals, camp sites, and homes in villages and outlying suburban areas threatened by blazes that scattered ash on streets across the city.

Deputy Fire Chief Stelios

A man carrying a bucket runs to help contain a fire outside Marathon, northeast of Athens, Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009.



Stefanidis said no casualties had been reported by early Sunday, despite the overnight evacuations of hundreds of hillside homes on the outskirts of the city.

The fires, which started late

Friday, were reported in an area more than 25 miles (40 kilometers) wide.

Residents were seen fleeing the fires on foot, by motorbike and in cars, amid blackouts and water supply cuts.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraqis begin restoring concrete walls in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—Workers used giant cranes to raise concrete walls around the blast-scarred Foreign Ministry and other government buildings on Saturday, as Iraqi authorities sought to bolster security after suicide truck bombings that killed scores in Baghdad. The decision to reinforce vital institutions is a sharp reversal of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's desire to remove the barriers as part of his efforts to make life more normal for war-weary Iraqis before January's national elections.

Britain rejects talk of deal in Lockerbie release

LONDON (AP)—Britain rejected Saturday any suggestion it had struck a deal with Libya to free the Lockerbie bomber—questions that arose when Moammar Gadhafi publicly thanked British officials as he embraced the man convicted of killing 270 people in the 1988 airline bombing. Gadhafi

praised Prime Minister Gordon Brown and members of the royal family by name for what he described as influencing the decision to let the terminally ill Abdel Baset al-Megrahi return home to die. But British officials insisted they did not tell Scottish justice officials what to do—and in any case, they could not, because the decision was not theirs to make.

Nigerian oil militants surrender rockets, guns

YENAGOA, Nigeria (AP)—A top militant leader and 1,000 fighters surrendered to the Nigerian government Saturday, turning in their weapons in the biggest hand-over since an amnesty began two weeks ago, but other fighters said attacks in the oil-rich Delta region will resume next month regardless. The unrest has cut Nigeria's production by a million barrels a day, allowing Angola to overtake it as the continent's top oil producer. Ebikabowei Victor Ben, the state commander for the region's biggest armed group, the Movement for the Emancipa-

tion of the Niger Delta, and 25 commanders under his leadership delivered weapons to police overnight. Ben is better known as Gen. Boyloaf.

Germany: 100 professors suspected of Ph.D. bribes

BERLIN (AP)—German prosecutors are investigating about 100 professors across the country on suspicion they took bribes to help students get their doctoral degrees, authorities said Saturday. The investigation is focused on the Institute for Scientific Consulting, based in Bergisch Gladbach, just east of Cologne, which allegedly acted as the intermediary between students and the professors, said Cologne prosecutor's spokesman Guenther Feld. According to both Focus magazine and the Neue Westfälische newspaper, students paid between euro4,000 to euro20,000 (\$5,700 to \$28,500) to the company, which promised to help them get their doctorate degrees through its extensive contacts within university faculties.

Health & Fitness

WHO: Save Tamiflu for the young, old and pregnant

By MARIA CHENG
AP MEDICAL WRITER

LONDON (AP)—The World Health Organization said Friday that Tamiflu should only be given to particularly vulnerable people—a warning to countries like Britain where the swine flu drug is being handed out freely.

WHO previously said it was up to doctors to decide who should get Tamiflu. On Friday, the U.N. agency said healthy people who catch mild to moderate cases of swine flu don't need the drug, but the young, old,

pregnant, and those with underlying health problems surely do.

If countries use Tamiflu too liberally, that could lead to resistant viruses, leaving the world with few resources to fight swine flu.

WHO said people thought to be at risk for complications from swine flu—children less than 5 years old, pregnant women, people over age 65 and those with other health problems like heart disease, HIV or diabetes—should definitely get the drug.

The agency also recommended all patients, including children, who

have severe cases of swine flu, with breathing difficulties, chest pain or severe weakness, should get Tamiflu immediately, perhaps in higher doses than now used.

“The WHO guidance is quite different from what has been done in England,” said Hugh Pennington, a flu expert at the University of Aberdeen. “England’s approach is out of step with the rest of the world on this.”

In Britain, the government’s response to the swine flu outbreak has come under fire for allowing Tamiflu to be handed out by call center work-

ers who have as little as three hours of training.

Since the British set up a national flu service in July to deal with the surge of swine flu cases, Tamiflu has been available to anyone suspected of having the disease.

At its summer peak, British authorities guessed there were about 110,000 new cases of swine flu, also known as H1N1, every week. The number of new cases dropped last week to about 11,000, but the fall/winter flu season has not yet begun.

Boasting that Britain had the world’s

largest supply of Tamiflu, enough to cover 80 percent of its nearly 61 million people, Health Minister Andy Burnham promised the drug would be available to anyone who needed it.

Britons who call the national flu line can get Tamiflu without ever seeing a doctor—it is given out by call center workers who have no medical training. The operators’ training lasts from three hours to a day. There are no health workers present at the call centers. Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales decided not to participate in the swine flu phone line.



This Wednesday, March 15, 2006 file photo shows the antiviral drug Tamiflu.

Study: Lung cancer pill works for some patients

ATLANTA (AP)—Four years after the government severely restricted its use, the lung cancer drug Iressa may be poised to make a comeback: A study concludes it can slow the deadly disease better than standard chemotherapy in certain patients.

The research released Wednesday is the first to show Iressa can be more effective than chemotherapy as a first-line treatment, and some experts are hopeful it will prompt the Food and Drug Administration to allow wide use of the drug, made by AstraZeneca PLC.

Others are doubtful.

Though the study shows an effect on cancer growth over one year, the drug’s impact on long-term survival is still in question. Also, the study was done in Asia, and the drug seems to work best with specific patients—Asians, women and nonsmokers who carry a specific gene mutation.

“I’d venture to say that additional studies will be requested in the United States population,” said Dr. Len Lichtenfeld, the American Cancer Society’s deputy chief medical officer.

AstraZeneca, which funded the

study, is not planning a new push for expanded FDA approval of the drug, a company spokeswoman said. But the company is continuing to share data about the drug with federal health officials, she added.

Iressa is a daily pill that more precisely targets cancer rather than healthy cells. It’s an attractive alternative to standard chemotherapy, which involves trips to a hospital or clinic for infusions of poisonous chemicals that cause nausea and hair loss.

In 2003, the FDA approved Iressa as a last-resort treatment for patients with the most common form of lung cancer, called non-small-cell lung cancer. The market was significant: Lung cancer kills more Americans than any other kind of tumor, and the Cancer Society estimates it will cause nearly 160,000 U.S. deaths this year. Non-small-cell lung cancer represents 85 percent of lung cancer cases.

But in 2005, the FDA stopped allowing new patients to go on Iressa after early results from a federally sponsored study failed to show it improved lung cancer patients’ survival rates.

Another lung cancer pill, Roche Group’s Tarceva, acts in a way similar to Iressa and remained on the market as a treatment for patients not helped by chemotherapy. There wasn’t widespread outcry at the loss of Iressa because Tarceva remained available, said Dr. Edward Kim, a lung cancer specialist at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Interest in Iressa continued, though, as doctors have become increasingly interested in personalized approaches to cancer treatment. Studies have shown some drugs work better in certain breast and colon cancer patients than others, and earlier studies have found that Iressa dramatically shrunk tumors in patients who had lung cancers with a specific genetic mutation.

That kind of case is seen in only a small fraction of U.S. lung cancer patients, but is much more common in Asia, scientists say.

The latest study was led by Dr. Tony Mok of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and involved about 1,200 patients throughout southeast Asia.

A doctor’s OK may not be needed to exercise

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Practically every article about exercise contains some version of this caveat: Talk to your doctor before embarking on any fitness regimen.

While it’s not bad advice, let’s face it—most people don’t bother, bypassing the doctor and going straight to the treadmill. By doing that, are they putting themselves at risk for serious cardiac problems, and even death?

Maybe not, according to a new study in the August issue of the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. The study employed a Monte Carlo simulation—an algorithm that uses repeated random samplings—to determine the possible outcomes of having an exercise-tolerance test or not before beginning exercise among adults at low to high risk for coronary disease.

Researchers from Israel and the United States determined that although screenings could prevent deaths in people who fall into the intermediate to high-risk groups, the same wasn’t true for those at low risk. They argue that while exercise-induced death is rare, more common is

death caused by a sedentary lifestyle. Also, coronary disease screenings could produce false results, possibly preventing people from exercising.

However, this doesn’t give sedentary people license to hop on a bicycle and pedal at top speed. Dr. Mayer Brezis, professor of medicine at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem and one of the study’s authors, said in an interview with Reuters UK that exercise should start slowly and increase gradually and that people should seek medical help if they experience chest pain or dizziness while exercising. Also, those who know they have heart disease should be referred to a cardiac rehabilitation center.

In the study, the authors wrote, “If screening (an exercise tolerance test) is unsatisfactory for preventing exercise-induced cardiac events, other modalities should be explored, such as promoting public education about the need for gradual initiation of physical activity and about alarming symptoms (including through signs at gyms), while improving the availability of semi-automatic defibrillators and personnel trained in life support at sports facilities.”

Spain’s 1st face transplant patient able to smile now

MADRID (AP)—Spain’s first face transplant patient—the first anywhere to get a new tongue and jaw—has been so pleased by his new appearance that he smiled, hospital officials said Saturday.

The 43-year-old patient, who underwent the surgery Tuesday at La Fe hospital in the eastern city of Valencia, may go home in about a week, said transplant specialist surgeon Pedro Cavadas. The man lost part of his face more than 10 years ago due to radiotherapy to treat an aggressive tumor.

Cavadas said the patient will need to learn to eat and speak intelligibly again after more than a decade of not being able to, but he saw himself in a mirror and was so happy he smiled.

Hospital officials said Saturday that the patient, whose name has not been released, continued to make

good progress.

The operation performed by Cavadas and a team of 30—the eighth face transplant in the world—took 15 hours to transfer facial parts from a 35 year-old donor who had died in a traffic accident.

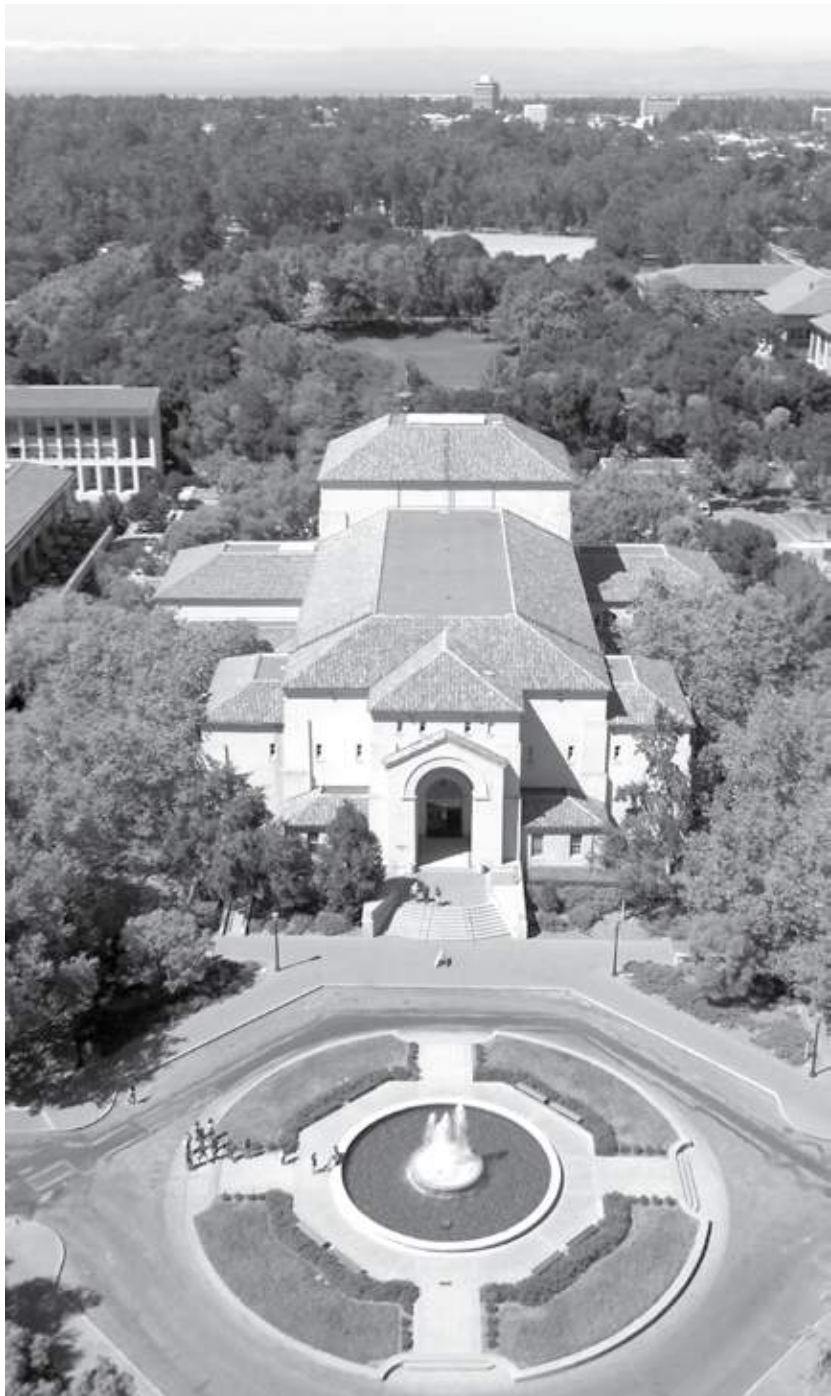
Cavadas said he had been forced to bring forward a press conference about the operation because press reports had revealed the identity of the donor.

“The intimacy of the donor has been violated, something as sacred as that. This benefits no one,” Cavadas said.

There have been four previous face transplant operations in France, two in the United States and one in China.

In October doctor Cavadas operated to transplant two arms onto a 28 year-old Spaniard who had lost both limbs above the elbow.

Life & Style



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A view from the top of the 285-foot Hoover Tower Observation Platform on the campus of Stanford University in Palo Alto.

lunches and dinner trips daily.

That day, the small tour group at the Robert Mondavi winery included mostly those from New York, but the one from Saipan traveled the farthest. I got that “where in the world is that place?” look. I wonder whether it would have been different had I mentioned that I’m from Manila. I didn’t get to come back and watch any of Robert Mondavi winery’s 2009 summer festival every Saturday which included performances by Blondie, KC & the Sunshine Band, and Smokey Robinson.

When we went back to Mountain View, we passed a street fair called “Thursday night live” packed with people dancing to the music of an all-male band singing Doobie Brothers and other oldies but goodies songs. On one side was a collection of head turning vintage cars while on the opposite end were activities for children like face painting and road drawing. People also brought their own plastic tables and stools so they could sit comfortably, share drinks and food with their friends and family, listen to the live band, and watch the crowd.

Mountain View, which gets its name from the views of the Santa Clara Mountains, is such a family-oriented community in Santa Clara County. There were days when it’s cold in this place, but it’s nowhere near San Francisco’s chilly summer.

The following day was when I first set out to San Francisco where I had my “coldest summer” as I wrote in the first part of my travelogue. When I came back, Ate Ochie, Kuya Matt, their lovely daughters Kamea and Maya and I went to the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum & Planetarium in sleepy San Jose, which my dear friend Marvin recommended I should check out. When the museum employee asked how I’d found out about the place, I told her it’s through a friend. I did buy a Lonely Planet USA but I didn’t



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

People dance, eat, drink and enjoy a live band performance at a Thursday night street fair in Mountain View.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A boy is dwarfed by giant rocks at Yosemite Valley's Bridal Veil Falls.

get to read it before exploring California so I relied on people’s recommendations where to go, except for one place.

For the first time in my life, I saw authentic Egyptian mummies, which were up to 3,000 years old! I used to see them only on the History Channel or read in *National Geographic* and other magazines. The Rosicrucian museum has an interesting architecture and houses the largest collection—more than 4,000—of authentic ancient Egyptian artifacts in western North America. It’s amazing looking at the remains of ancient civilization, which also included coffins, potteries, jewelry, statues, and ancient texts such as a fragment from the Book of the Dead, purportedly a guide to the afterlife.

But what struck me the most were these lines from a poem/song posted on a wall and taken from the “Literature of Ancient Egypt” which I found so sweet: “My heart inclines toward you/I shall do for you what it seeks/When I am in your arms/I wish to paint my eyes/So if I see you, my eyes will glisten/When I approach you and see your love/You are the richest in my heart...” Before exiting the museum, I bought small authentic papyrus as souvenirs, then walked at the Peace Garden and took some more photos of the statuary.

Shopping and dining followed at the Westfield Valley Fair Mall in San Jose, before going back home. A day later, I took the Caltrain to go back to San Francisco where I spent the rest of the week, until we had our 18-hour road trip from there to Lake Tahoe, Reno, Sacramento and back, and then to Mountain View as I wrote earlier.

I got a year older in San Francisco but it was only after I returned to Mountain View when I had a somewhat surprise birthday party. The family went to Ate Lulu’s house for a birthday party for two kids in the family. First they put a candle on the cake for a girl who turned 3. Then they put candle “1” before “3” for someone who turned 13. They told me it’s my turn and they replaced one of the two candles for me to blow. It was a touching moment with family and friends, not to mention good food! The day after, I had a haircut from a Vietnamese-Chinese lady and a foot spa while watching Jennifer Aniston’s life story on TV at a nearby mall.

The day when Ate Ochie got her California driver’s license, they treated me to The Cheesecake Factory where they served superb tiramisu cheesecake! We then set out to the Stanford University campus in Palo Alto, some portions of which reminded me of my college days. For one, the Hoover Tower looks like the UP Carillon Tower while one of its

See MOUNTAIN on Next Page

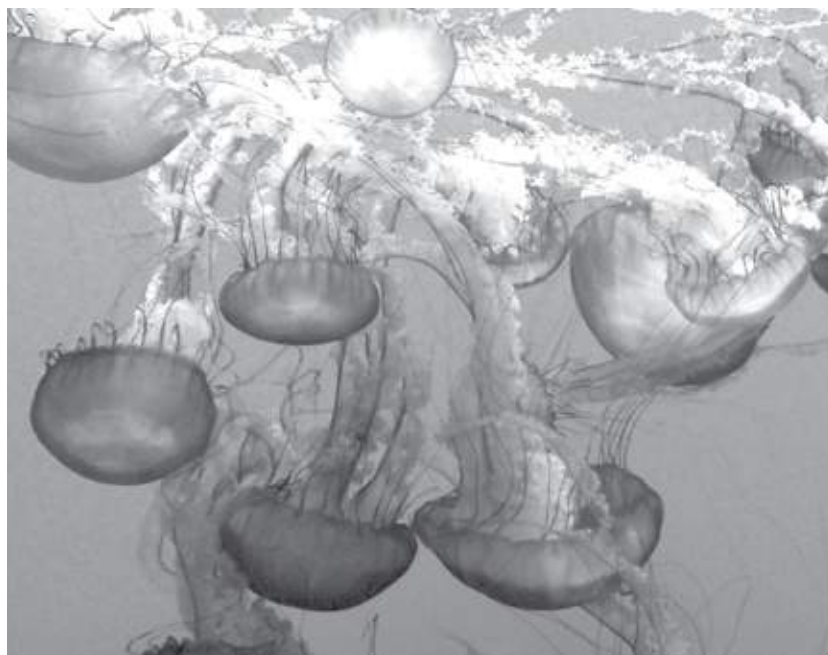
Mountain View, Napa Valley, Monterey, Yosemite and many places in between

Last of a series

Although not a wine lover, I was easily drawn to California’s famous Napa Valley with its fine weather and huge areas blanketed by vineyards and dotted by chateaus during that fine morning drive from Mountain View. That was less than 24 hours since I set foot on the mainland for the first time.

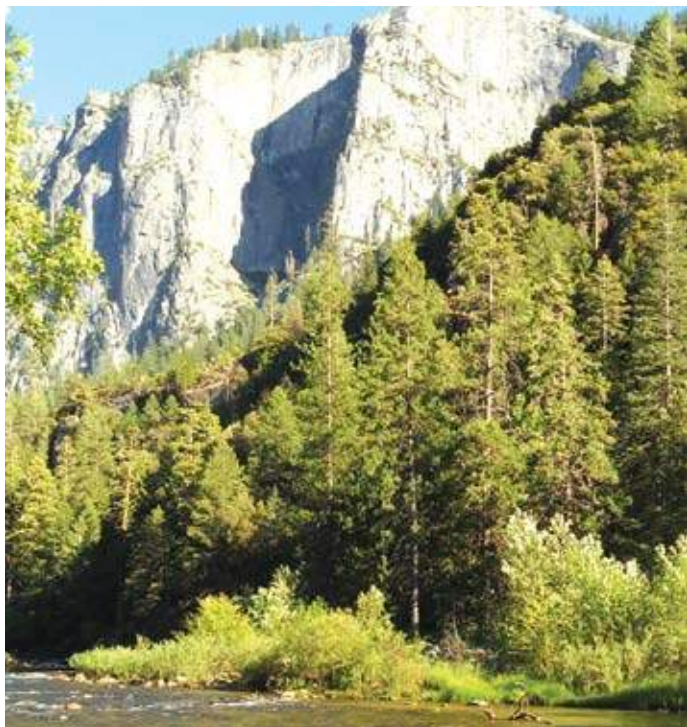
For \$15 each, my cousin Ate Ochie, her husband Kuya Matt and I had a 30-minute tour of the Robert Mondavi winery on St. Helena Highway in Oakville. The tour included tasting of red and white wines, free wine glasses, a brief look into the wine making process, and endless photo sessions. Napa Valley, known for its cabernet sauvignon, has over 300 wineries that are mostly open for tours and tasting. Many wine aficionados do explore the wine country by rail on the Napa Valley Wine Train, which offers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Monterey Bay Aquarium’s giant jellyfish were among my favorites.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Towering granite cliffs, rivers, giant sequoias and untamed wilderness are worth the long trip to the Yosemite National Park.

MOUNTAIN

From Page 18

gardens looks a bit like the UP Sunken Garden. We got to climb the Hoover Tower free of charge using my cousin's employee ID. The wait was worth it: We had a marvelous 360-view of the large campus from the tower. The campus has a lot of architectural wonders and I particularly liked the building arches.

We set out to Monterey the following day to see the Monterey Bay Aquarium. For someone who doesn't swim and dive, seeing marine wonders like sharks and colorful fishes, giant jellyfish and penguins in giant aquariums is a treat. No questions asked. We also had a great view of Monterey Bay, now protected as the nation's largest marine sanctuary. I didn't expect Monterey to be that cold that day but it was, especially when we had a short walking tour of downtown.

Linking Monterey and Carmel are Highway 1 and the scenic 17-Mile Drive. This forest and coastal road is famous for its great view of Pebble Beach, golf courses, exclusive mansions, and coastal deer roaming around. And there are 21—not 17 as the name implies—points of interest in this scenic route. Of the 21, my favorite was the "Lone Cypress," which has prevailed on its rocky perch for over 250 years and has become one of California's enduring landmarks. Despite the cold weather, I did get out of the car to take photos of the literal "lone cypress." Others I do remember were the Spanish Bay, Restless Sea, Bird Rock, and the Ghost Tree.

At 7am the following day, former *Saipan Tribune* editor Aldwin Fajardo picked me up at my cousin's house in Mountain View and we set out to Stockton. There, we met with Ramon Dizon who gave me a tour of the Good Samaritan care center before having a long breakfast. We later met with businesswoman Sedy Demesa. "Kuya Mon" cautioned us about grizzly bears at the Yosemite National Park, which was our main destination that day. After long

talks about Saipan politics and economy over lunch that ended at past 2pm, Aldwin and I began our long journey to what naturalist John Muir once described as "by far the grandest of all the special temples of Nature I was ever permitted to enter."

Yosemite was the only place in California I planned to really explore before I boarded the plane on Saipan but things don't always go the way you want them to be so when I had the chance to put it back on the plan, I grabbed it. I told myself I won't go back to Saipan without stepping foot on Yosemite, a World Heritage Site which is ravishing with natural beauty, towering granite cliffs, giant sequoias, rivers, untamed wilderness and adventurous souls like us.

Negotiating winding roads at an elevation of up to 6,000 feet was such an exciting road trip for me (but I can't speak for Aldwin who had to drive the whole time and who, at times, I thought would have a heart attack driving what he later thought was a devil's road). The area was established as a national park in 1980 and packs 3 million to 4 million a year. We had a few stops to marvel at the natural grandeurs along the way including Half Dome. Given the limited time we had, our plan was to reach at least one of the classic and most prominent Yosemite Valley views: the Bridal Veil Falls. We walked on foot and climbed giant rocks to get to the falls. The natural wonder was worth the long trip. We left the place at past 7:30pm and so began another long ride back home. We were hungry by the time we got back to the "city," and so we found a place to eat at almost midnight. I got home at past 1am.

After another day of exploring Mountain View, I went back to San Francisco for what was supposed to be a few hours' trip to meet with some other friends. I ended up spending my last night in California there, and had to rush back the following morning to my cousin's house, pack my things, and proceed to the airport for a trip back to Saipan. The 19 days went so fast and I had a heavy heart leaving. But then, I can always go back.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Countless shorebirds give this stately landmark its name, Bird Rock, along the coastal 17-Mile Drive.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The Lone Cypress, one of the 21 points of interest in the scenic 17-Mile Drive linking Carmel and Monterey, has prevailed on its rocky perch for over 250 years and has become one of California's most enduring landmarks.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Authentic Egyptian mummies highlight every visit to the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum & Planetarium in San Jose.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Among the most prominent of Yosemite Valley views is the Bridal Veil Falls.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

Soledad Takai Tenorio
“Daidai”

We cordially invite all our relatives, friends and business associates to join us in prayers for our beloved mother and grandmother on the First Anniversary of her death.

Nightly rosary will be prayed at Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning on Saturday, August 15, 2009 through Sunday, August 23, 2009 at 7:00PM.

Mass of Intention will be celebrated at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 4:00PM on Monday, August 24, 2009. Dinner will be served immediately after the service at Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Annie T./Jesus R. Sablan & Family
Clarence T. Tenorio & Family
Norman T./Keli Tenorio & Family
Patricia T./Roman S. Palacios & Family
Frances T./Miguel S. Demapan & Family
Priscilla T. Tenorio/Joseph Guzman & Family



Worldwide 'Avatar' previews thrill sci-fi fans

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fans wearing 3D glasses clapped as soon as James Cameron's face appeared on screen. The filmmaker, shown in 3D, invited moviegoers to enjoy a 16-minute peek of his anticipated sci-fi epic "Avatar," which was screened for free around the world Friday.

The footage takes viewers to the planet Pandora, where an ex-Marine (Sam Worthington) is among a group of humans who have their brains linked to cloned versions of a native species in order to safely explore the spectacular environment. Sigourney Weaver plays a botanist overseeing the exploration. She, too, embodies an avatar based on the tall, lithe, tailed, blue humanoid species that populates the planet.

Together they meet an enormous hammerhead dinosaur with a plume of multicolored spikes on its face and the snarling tiger-like creature that scares it away.

Another scene shows Worthington's character befriend a native woman (Zoe Saldana). They discover a psychedelic forest of luminescent flowers and battle an army of flying dragons. Relying on 3D and performance-capture technology Cameron has helped pioneer, "Avatar" is an immersive blend of animation and live-action movie magic.

Fans at an IMAX screening in Los Angeles were overwhelmed



In this undated photo released in Tokyo, Japan, by Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp., Australian actor Sam Worthington is shown in a scene in James Cameron's 3-D sci-fi adventure "Avatar."

by the 3D footage.

"It was almost a sensory overload," said Ryan Moore, 23, a student at Ohio State University. "You have to be in the moment wearing the (3D) glasses to really appreciate it."

Dwayne Smith of Venice was taken with the digital effects.

"It looked very real, especially the aliens. It looked amazingly real," said the 45-year-old. "It was one of the most amazing things I've ever seen, actually."

The free preview convinced one fan to buy a ticket on the spot.

"I think it's going to be one of the greatest movies this decade," said 21-year-old film student Derek Nunn.

The screenings, shown on some 440 screens in 58 countries, kept social networking sites abuzz with fan feedback.

One who was disappointed with the trailer said seeing the extended footage in 3D changed his mind about the movie.

"It is essential that you watch it in IMAX 3D, or 3D," Manoj Patel of Manchester, England, wrote on the film's Facebook page. "I

just got back from watching the 15-minute footage, and I've got to say, my mouth was wide open all the way through."

Response to the film's 2D trailer, which debuted online Thursday, was mixed. Analyzing the two-minute teaser, several movie blogs—including Movieline.com and Spout blog—noted the film's similar appearance to the 2008 animated flop "Delgo" and other science fiction movies.

But fans who saw the footage in 3D gave it overwhelmingly positive reviews.

"The trailer does not represent the movie properly," Smith said. "The trailer short-sells it."

Cameron said Friday he heard the trailer was a hot topic on Facebook and Twitter, but that he

lacks certain social networking skills to take part.

"I don't even know how to Twitter," he said in an interview. "I'm so unhip that it's tragic."

But the 55-year-old filmmaker, whose last flick was world box-office record-holder "Titanic" in 1997, knows how to make a splash on screen. He said his team came up with the "crazy stunt" of inviting people to the movie theater to watch 16 minutes of "Avatar" for free.

"And it's not even a continuous 16 minutes," Cameron said. "There are a number of scenes, about three or four minutes apiece. And the idea was to let people come in and really sample the quality of the goods."

"Avatar" is set for release Dec. 18.

Jackson memorabilia tour approved; London's first

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Friday firmly approved a deal between Michael Jackson's estate and a concert promoter to exhibit his memorabilia, praising the arrangement that the singer's mother had fought in court over her concerns that it could harm his legacy and wasn't competitively bid.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff approved the deal that's expected to earn Jackson's estate up to \$6 million, saying after four hours of mostly closed-door testimony that there was "no question in my mind this agreement is in the best interest of the estate."

Beckloff noted the lack of a reasonable alternative presented by Katherine Jackson's attorneys, alluding to a mention made in court of a company starting up in the Middle East that might be able to handle the exhibitions.

"The most foolhardy thing the administrators could do is connect with some startup company

from the Middle East," he said.

The show will open in London's O2 Arena, where Jackson was set to kick off his "This is It" tour this summer.

"I think everybody is going to be thrilled with the results," said John Norman, president and CEO of the exhibit's promoter, AEG Live-owned Arts and Exhibitions International. "It will be great to celebrate this man's legacy."

AEG Live, the company that was preparing Jackson's 50-concert comeback tour when he died June 25, plans to open the exhibit around the Oct. 28 release of a film using footage of the singer's final rehearsals. Attorneys for Katherine Jackson had tried to block the deal, arguing it should have been competitively bid, and that the estate should have a larger cut of the proceeds than the 50-50 split negotiated with AEG.

John Schreiber, an attorney for Katherine Jackson, suggested there was no need to hurry or conduct "a fire sale" of

the memorabilia. But the judge chided his "hyperbole about rushing to judgment and fire sale and giving away the store" as inappropriate, and said he was convinced the negotiations were above board.

Meg Lodise, an attorney appointed to represent the interests of Jackson's three children, agreed that the deal was in the best interests of the youngsters, who are entitled to 40 percent of their father's estate. Katherine Jackson is the beneficiary of another 40 percent, with 20 percent going to unnamed charities.

Norman said the memorabilia exhibition calls for a three-city tour spread over two years that would stay four to six months in each city. He said he didn't know what would be included in the exhibit, but that there were warehouses of material to select from, including items from Jackson's Neverland Ranch and the "This is It" shows. The selection process would begin on Monday, he said.

'Runway' champ campaigns for Kidman to wear dress

NEW YORK (AP)—Fashion designer Daniel Vosovic has someone very A-list in mind for the winning dress he created for the "Project Runway: All-Star Challenge."

Vosovic dreams of getting none other than Nicole Kidman to wear the elegant black-and-white ensemble that secured his victory on Thursday's special edition of the fashion-competition franchise.

Vosovic says he feels the urge to start a Web site for his case. Because, as he puts it, "I WANT that woman in my dress."

The style-savvy actress helped set up a design contest for Vosovic and seven other top contestants from past "Runway" seasons. In a video message, Kidman asked them to create a red carpet-ready look for the upcoming premiere of her film "Nine," which also stars Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard and Kate Hudson.

She didn't say who'd wear the chosen dress.



In this July 9, 2009 publicity image released by Lifetime, former "Project Runway" winner Daniel Vosovic is shown in New York.

"As excited as we were, we certainly got it," he said. "I mean, she has an international image to uphold. ... I think that she just wanted to have a little bit of a look, so hopefully she's watching the show, she loves what I did and she'll want to wear the dress."

Representatives for Kidman could not immediately be

reached for comment Friday.

Vosovic, 28, is planning to debut his namesake collection at New York Fashion Week in February. He recently published a book, "Fashion Inside Out."

He was booted from "Project Runway" in 2006 after making it to the final round. Armed with more experience and confidence, Vosovic was happy to return for another shot at the title of top designer and the \$100,000 grand prize. He out-sewed the competition on the one-episode challenge with four looks that were notably edgier than his understated designs on season two.

He says Michael Kors, one of the show's judges alongside Heidi Klum and Nina Garcia, once told him he created beautiful clothes that women want to wear but he was still learning how to put on a show.

"As harsh and real and honest as that was, I learned from it," he says. "And I learned, that, you know, sometimes you gotta turn up the volume a little bit."

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

ANTONIA SABLAN CAMACHO

August 8, 1923 – August 13, 2009

Thank you to all our family and friends for your thoughts, prayers, consolation and support during our time of pain and sorrow at the unexpected death of our mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Thank you also for your presence during the nine days of morning mass, the wake, the Mass of Christian Burial and the burial at the Santuario Pax in Kagman. Your presence was a source of comfort and consolation. Your kindness, your prayers, your love, and your innumerable other types of assistance have truly and deeply touched us and will always be remembered.

Un dangkalu na si yu'us ma'ase ginen I familian ma'me.
May God bless all of you.

*Guadalupe C. Borja-Robinson and John Robinson
Jesus C. and Mary Anne P. Borja & family*

Actor pleads guilty in scheme in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—“One Tree Hill” actor Antwon Tanner has pleaded guilty to selling more than a dozen Social Security numbers for \$10,000.

Tanner told a federal judge in Brooklyn on Friday that he was a middleman, selling numbers someone else provided. He and his lawyer didn't comment on how he got involved in the scheme.

Tanner is expected to get as much as a year in prison at his sentencing, set for Nov. 20.

The 34-year-old actor was charged in April with selling 16 Social Security numbers and three bogus Social Security cards.

Tanner plays the character Skills in the CW series. Representatives for the network didn't immediately return a telephone call Saturday.

Tanner also appeared in the 2005 movie “Coach Carter,” starring Samuel L. Jackson.



AP

In this May 13, 2008 file photo, actor Antwon Tanner arrives at the CW Network 2008 Upfronts in New York.

Paramount bumps 'Shutter Island' to February

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paramount Pictures has moved Martin Scorsese's “Shutter Island” from an October release date to February, which takes it out of awards consideration for this year.

Studio chairman and chief executive officer Brad Grey said Friday that the scheduling shift from Oct. 2 to Feb. 19 was an economic decision.

“This is a situation facing every single studio as we all work through the financial pressures associated with the broader downturn,” he said.

The anticipated thriller marks the latest pairing of Scorsese and star Leonardo DiCaprio, following “Gangs of New York” (2002), “The Aviator” (2004) and “The Departed” (2006), which won the Academy Award for best picture and earned Scorsese his first directing Oscar. It also stars Ben Kingsley, Patricia Clarkson, Jackie Earle Haley and Michelle Williams.

Based on a novel by “Mystic River” author Dennis Lehane, “Shutter Island” follows the investigation into the disappearance of a murderess from a mental institution. DiCaprio plays a U.S. Marshal in 1954 Boston looking for the woman, who is presumed to have escaped to the remote Shutter Island. His involvement in the case starts to make him question his own sanity.

Grey said the original decision to release the film as part of Paramount's 2009 slate was made during “a very different economic climate” and as a result the company must “adapt to a changing environment.” Paramount is a division of Viacom Inc.

“Leonardo DiCaprio is among the most talented actors working today and Martin Scorsese is not just one of the world's most significant filmmakers, but also a personal friend,” Grey added in his statement. “Following a highly successful 2009, we have every confidence that ‘Shutter Island’ is a great anchor to lead off our 2010 slate and the shift in date is the best decision for the film, the studio and ultimately Viacom.”

Guitarist James Burton fails to set world record

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP)—Pioneering rockabilly guitarist James Burton led an ensemble of about 800 guitar players Saturday in a celebration of his 70th birthday, but failed in his attempt to make the Guinness Book of World Records.

At the Hirsch Memorial Coliseum in Shreveport, roughly 30 miles west of his hometown of Minden, Burton led a battalion of pickers through the Elvis Presley hits “That's All Right, Mama” and “Hound Dog.”

Guinness lists the world's largest guitar ensemble as 1,802 participants led by Andreas Vockrodt in Germany in 2007.

Burton, who is known for working with the Elvis Presley and Ricky Nelson bands, celebrated his birthday Friday.



AP

Fred Weise plays his guitar with about 800 people, who are attempting to break the Guinness Book of World Records of the most acoustic guitars and unplugged electric guitars played in unison for a five-minute period, at Hirsch Memorial Coliseum in Shreveport, La., Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009.

Nephew: Michael joined family weeks before death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A nephew of Michael Jackson says his uncle joined a large family dinner a few weeks before he died, and talked openly about his creative plans beyond the 50-date concert stint in London.

Jackson gathered with about 50 members of his family for dinner at an Indian restaurant a few weeks before he died, Taj Jackson, the 36-year-old son of Tito Jackson, said outside a courtroom during a hearing Friday.

That night was the last time he saw his uncle, who “was just enjoying being with the family.” He said they spoke only of the future.

“He had his next chapter mapped out,” Taj Jackson said. “He wanted to do this (tour) and get on to the next chapter. The last words he said to me were, ‘We're gong to do film after this.’” He said Jackson was interested in directing.

Taj Jackson said he was one of the family members who argued against burying the singer at his Neverland estate because after his trial on child molestation charges, Jackson came to hate the place. He remembered spending idyllic times there as a child, but after the trial, “it destroyed the magic.”

“Neverland was never an option to us,” he said. “It brought

so much pain to him.”

Taj said that in his last years, Jackson had few people he could trust and sometimes turned to his nephew for assistance.

“He really had an innocent heart,” he said, “and that was something people took advantage of.”

Taj Jackson took the stand Friday at hearing to determine whether a proposed deal to display his uncle's memorabilia could go forward between the estate and concert promoter AEG live. His testimony was meant to bolster his grandmother's opposition to the deal, but a judge approved it later Friday.

Spike Lee's Jackson birthday bash could draw 10K

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City officials want to find a larger place for Spike Lee to hold his celebration of Michael Jackson's birthday.

The filmmaker had planned to mark the late King of Pop's birthday with a block party-style bash in Brooklyn's Fort Greene park on Aug. 29, when Jackson would have turned 51.

But a spokeswoman for Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Friday that city officials and Lee are looking at other sites because crowd estimates



AP

In this June 29, 2009 file photo, director Spike Lee attends a special 20th anniversary screening of “Do the Right Thing,” in New York.

Daughter-in-law takes offense at family's tardy condolences

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: We received a nasty note from our daughter-in-law, “Ariella.” She lives several states away. Her father passed away about six weeks ago. They lived out of state, and we were never close with them.

Ariella is angry because we didn't send flowers to the viewing and didn't send her mother a sympathy card until two weeks after the funeral.

We're in our late 70s. Ariella's father was 89. Should we have sent flowers? And is two weeks after a death too late to send a sympathy card? Our other three children each received identical notes from Ariella.

BEFUDDLED IN ALABAMA

DEAR BEFUDDLED: I'll say this about your daughter-in-law—she's outspoken about her emotions. Ariella's parents may have lived out of state, but they are (were) members of your extended family, and frankly, the nonchalance with which you treated the death of Ariella's father surprises me.

No law says you were obligated to send flowers for the funeral—but to have done so would have been a compassionate gesture and let her and her mother know you cared. To then wait two weeks before extending any condolences was cold in light of the fact that you could have picked up the phone and done it immediately—and the same goes for your children.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: After 35 years living out of state, my parents have moved to my hometown, and I am thrilled to have them so near.

My problem: Now that I'm seeing my mother on a daily basis, I know what I'm going to look like in 20 years. She and I recognize our physical similarities and laugh about them: our noses, our coloring and our rear ends, etc. These genes will override any “magic cream” on the market.

Mother has many qualities that I admire and aspire to have, but I guess I wasn't ready for a preview peek into the aging mirror. I have never considered myself vain, but I would like to be slimmer and keep a more youthful appearance. Is it hopeless? The problem isn't my mother—it's me.

AFRAID OF DESTINY

DEAR AFRAID: It's not hopeless. Biology doesn't have to dictate one's destiny. Your diet and lifestyle can have a tremendous effect on your appearance in 20 years. Also, men and women seem to have aged more slowly in recent decades than they did in the 1930s, '40s and '50s.

If you want reassurance, drag out some old family albums and take a look at how your aunts, uncles and grandparents looked at your age. Please don't obsess about something that may not happen because nothing ages a woman like stress.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My friend's daughter asked her child's godparent to buy a \$60 to \$100 dress for the baptismal service. I told my friend I had never heard of the parents not buying the outfit themselves.

The daughter cannot afford to buy the dress herself. Was it appropriate to ask this of a godparent?

UNCERTAIN IN OMAHA

DEAR UNCERTAIN: She may have thought so. According to Emily Post: “The baby's gown—often one that was worn by the baby's mother, father or one of his grandparents—is provided by the parents, not the godparents—a former tradition that has gone by the board” (italics are mine).

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

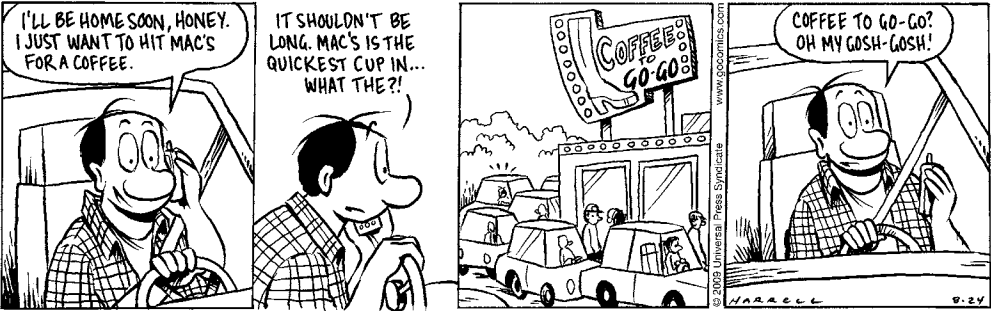


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Relinquish

5 High tennis shot

8 Prickly heat symptom

12 Mimicry specialist

13 Rage

14 Pop flavor

15 Ca-boose's place

16 Erupt

18 Change the title

20 Groups of lions

21 Body powder

23 Slithery fish

24 Escape

28 Clarinet insert

31 Family

32 Blackbird type

34 Rowing need

35 "Young Frankenstein" role

DOWN

1 Singer Vikki

2 Duel tool

3 University bigwig

4 Mistakes in print

5 Defamatory

6 Bobby of hockey

7 Road Runner's sound

8 More gross

9 "Bye"

10 Hint

11 Chapeaus

17 Exist

19 Shark variety

22 Points

24 Go slaloming

25 Diary writer

26 Train driver

27 Shun liquor

29 Water, in Paris

30 "The 5,000 Fingers of —"

33 Den

36 Fly a plane

38 City in Poland

40 Tibetan critter

42 Doubtful

43 Sandwich cookie

44 Eggy drinks

46 "Forget it," at NASA

47 Bullfight injury

48 — out (supplements)

50 "— Lazy River"

Solution time: 24 mins.

C	A	R	O	M	L	E	A	V	E	S
A	U	R	O	R	A	U	P	B	E	A
S	L	E	U	T	H	C	O	A	R	S
S	T	A	G	A	P	E	X	O	T	T
H	A	R	E	Y	O	N				
A	R	T	L	A	N	E	B	I	K	E
C	H	I	E	F	J	U	S	T	I	C
T	O	N	G	A	L	P	O	A	N	T
S	O	W	T	R	O	T				
Y	A	M	A	P	S	E	A	M	M	O
O	P	I	A	T	E	S	E	X	I	E
G	E	T	T	E	R	S	O	I	R	E
A	D	H	E	R	E		O	N	S	E

Saturday's answer 8-24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19			20			
			21			22	23			
24	25	26				27	28	29	30	
31			32			33		34		
35			36		37			38		
		39		40		41				
42	43			44		45		46	47	48
49					50			51		
52				53				54		
55				56				57		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rupert Grint, 21; Dave Chappelle, 36; Jennifer Lien, 35; Marlee Matlin, 44

Happy Birthday: Don't let things get to you when it's your year to get things done. Step up and move into high gear as you mix and match and recycle and reduce what you have to deal with. Purging can be good when it clears the passage for bigger and better ventures. You are ready for change and action is what's required to turn your dreams into a reality. Your numbers are 3, 11, 22, 25, 29, 34, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your intensity coupled with your desire should bring some interesting results when dealing with partnerships. A job that requires detail, precision or persistence will show everyone how skillful you can be and what you can accomplish. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look for the option that offers a slow return or a chance to build something you've been interested in doing for some time. An emotional view of your past will help you make suitable choices now. Take time to do research. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be careful not to upset anyone you live with. Focus more on your vocational progress and try to avoid any personal matter. Secrets may be difficult for you to keep but today it's a must. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't give in to someone using emotional blackmail. A change at home will be beneficial and will lead to an opportunity for extra cash. Don't let overhead limit you. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your kindness and generosity will be difficult to deny. Your great ideas will lead to some interesting changes at home along with the chance to invest for a great return. Let your imagination wander. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Check out what everyone else is doing before you make a decision. Do not let your personal life affect your progress at work. Focus on what needs to be done. Your uncertainty can lead to a financial loss. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make some headway personally by spending time updating your look and your knowledge. A trip to obtain information or experience will pay off. You have more control than you realize. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have to work quietly on your own, remaining secretive about what you are trying to accomplish. Avoid anyone who may lead you off course or take advantage of your talent. Love is on the rise. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make a concerted effort to size down or invest in something stable and long-term. Set a strict budget. You have to be progressive if you want to get back up on top. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You have more power than you realize. Don't be afraid to stick your neck out and say what's on your mind. You'll be surprised by the reaction you get from people you thought were

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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immovable. A change in your direction will bring greater financial freedom. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Trying to impress or be someone you are not will be costly. This is a good time to challenge yourself and to face any demons that still haunt you regarding your past. Personal action will raise your self-esteem and confidence. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): So many opportunities are within reach but not all of them will bring you the same results. Make sure you aren't jeopardizing your chance to do something or be with someone in the future. Your uncertainty should be a signal to stop, wait and watch. *****

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, inventive and will not stand by as a spectator. You are strict and disciplined, always striving for perfection. You will not give in or step aside.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

7		5			1	2		4
		3		5		9		
8	2					6	5	
3			6	1	2			
	1						9	
			4	3	9			8
9	6						3	2
		8		2		7		
2		4	8			5		9

Difficulty Level ★ 8/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	5	4	1	2	3	6	9
9	6	2	8	7	3	5	1	4
4	3	1	5	6	9	7	8	2
1	5	8	9	4	6	2	7	3
6	4	3	2	8	7	9	5	1
2	9	7	3	5	1	6	4	8
7	2	6	1	3	8	4	9	5
5	1	9	6	2	4	8	3	7
3	8	4	7	9	5	1	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/24

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DREW CAREY, 'THE PRICE IS RIGHT' Solution: 6 letters

C	C	R	O	H	I	O	L	H	C	T	E	K	S	S
A	O	L	E	O	Z	C	A	R	A	J	O	Y	R	O
R	M	N	E	C	R	L	U	T	U	C	W	E	R	C
S	E	E	T	V	U	E	G	P	W	L	G	N	S	C
O	D	Z	R	E	E	D	H	R	I	N	A	O	E	E
N	I	E	B	I	S	L	O	C	A	H	M	M	L	R
I	A	E	O	E	C	T	A	R	T	C	E	B	E	E
C	N	U	N	N	E	A	A	N	P	I	N	I	C	K
O	I	Q	U	I	L	G	N	N	D	R	W	D	T	R
L	P	S	S	L	U	B	S	B	T	I	O	S	E	A
E	S	H	I	E	S	E	U	E	N	S	D	S	D	B
N	O	S	S	S	K	L	A	N	I	M	P	R	O	V
W	O	T	A	O	C	M	E	W	C	O	M	E	D	Y
N	S	P	J	H	S	R	E	K	R	H	O	S	T	O
L	E	E	H	W	S	L	S	T	A	C	K	C	E	D

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Allison, American, Barker, Beulah, Bids, Bonus, Bunch, Carson, Cleveland, Club, Comedian, Comedy, Contestants, Crew Cut, Deck, Down, Game, Guests, Host, Improv, Jaracz, Jokes, Laugh, Lewis, Money, Nicole, Ohio, Pass, Producer, Rangers, Rich, Selected, Show, Sketch, Soccer, Spin, Sport, Squeeze, Stack, Switcheroo, Teams, Toes, Wheel, Whose Line, Winners, Wrote

Last Saturday's Answer: Trekkies

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Tebow's Gators lead preseason Top 25



NEW YORK (AP)—As Tim Tebow and the Florida Gators prepare to make a run at their

third national title in the last four seasons, the defending champions have already made some history. Florida is No. 1 in The Associated Press' preseason Top 25 released Saturday, followed by Texas, Oklahoma, Southern California and Alabama. But the Gators are in a class by themselves, the most overwhelming preseason No. 1 in the history of the media poll.

Florida received 58 of the 60 first-place votes, or 96.7 percent. Texas got the other first-place votes.

The previous highest percentage of first-place votes for the AP preseason poll, which started in 1950, was 95.4 percent for USC in 2007. Those Trojans got 62 of 65 first-place votes—and didn't play for the national title.

Ten preseason No. 1s have won the national championship. If the Gators can become the 11th, they will have put together one of the great runs in college football history. Only one program since 1950 can claim three national championships in four years; Nebraska won it all in 1994 and 1995, then earned a split title in 1997.

With expectations soaring in Gainesville, Fla., coach Urban Meyer has been on a mission to keep his team's eyes on the small prizes—to heck with history.

"There's a lot of guys getting patted on the back and being told how good they are," Meyer said in a recent telephone interview. "Their only focus is on survival to the next day and working hard in practice."

"I don't want them to even think about that kind of stuff. Our goal is to get to Atlanta" for the Southeastern Conference championship game.

The rest of the top 10 includes two Big Ten powerhouses (No. 6 Ohio State and No. 9 Penn State) and the defending Atlantic Coast Conference champion (No. 7 Virginia Tech).

No. 8 Mississippi is in the preseason top 10 for the first time since 1970, when the Rebels were ranked fifth.

Oklahoma State is tied with Penn State for No. 9, the Cowboys' highest preseason ranking since No. 16 in 1985, when Thurman Thomas was in the backfield.

Florida is preseason No. 1 for the third time (1994 and 2001), and the Gators are the 20th defending national champ to start the season on top.

From the moment Florida wrapped up its 24-14 victory over Oklahoma in the BCS championship game in Janu-



In a Tuesday, Aug., 11, 2009 photo, Florida quarterback Tim Tebow poses for a picture during Media Day at the university in Gainesville, Fla.

ary, talk of a repeat started.

And when Tebow a few days later announced at a rally on campus celebrating the national title that he would come back for his senior year, there was no doubt the Gators would be the runaway preseason No. 1.

Florida's rugged, multidimensional quarterback won the Heisman Trophy in 2007 and finished third behind Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford and Texas quarterback Colt McCoy last year.

As good as Tebow is—he has a chance to end his career as the most decorated player in college football history with three national title rings and two Heismans—Meyer sees ar-

eas for improvement.

"I'd say in the passing game he can certainly improve some things," Meyer said. "Leadership-wise he used to get angry when he felt other guys weren't working as hard as he was. Now he gets those players to play at that level."

While Tebow leads an offense with plenty of speedy gamebreakers, All-American linebacker Brandon Spikes—another guy who passed on a chance to enter the NFL draft to return for his senior season—leads a defense that has potential to be the best in the country.

All 22 players on the defensive depth chart for the BCS title game are back.

Among the standouts are defensive end Carlos Dunlap and cornerback Janoris Jenkins and Joe Haden.

All that experience will allow defensive coordinator Charlie Strong to good deep into his playbook.

"Our defense has been installed at a much greater pace than ever before," Meyer said. "That allows you to put in a lot more different packages, three down (linemen) and four down."

The Gators are one of five SEC teams ranked in the Top 25, matching the Big 12 for the most from any conference. Joining Florida, Alabama and Ole Miss are LSU at No. 11 and Georgia at No. 13.

No. 23 Nebraska and No. 25 Kansas are the other Big 12 teams, along with Texas, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

Utah, which finished No. 2 last season and was the only undefeated team

in major college football, is ranked 19th to start this season. But the Utes aren't even the highest ranked team from the Mountain West Conference.

That distinction belongs to No. 17 TCU, while No. 20 BYU gives the MWC three ranked teams to start the season, as many as the Big Ten and Pac-10 and three more than the Big East, which was shut out.

No. 14 Boise State is the highest ranked team from a conference that does not automatically qualify for the Bowl Championship Series. The Broncos, the champions of the Western Athletic Conference, play the season's first big game, facing No. 16 Oregon on Sept. 3.

Notre Dame is back in the rankings for the first time since the final poll of the 2006 season. The Fighting Irish, coming off a 7-6 season, are No. 23.

Riley, Garcia share lead at rainy Wyndham

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Sergio Garcia followed through on a fairway shot when he heard a noise that has become all too familiar this weekend at Sedgefield Country Club.

The air horn sounded once again, signifying yet another weather delay at a Wyndham Championship—where most of the movement on "Moving Day" involved scurrying to the clubhouse to beat the waves of showers.

Garcia and Chris Riley were both 13 under par through 10 holes to share the clubhouse lead Saturday night when play was stopped midway through the third round of the rain-plagued tournament.

Steve Marino, Fred Couples, Kevin Stadler and Justin Rose were 12 under and Brandt Snedeker and Bill Haas were 11 under through varying stages of their rounds when play was suspended due to darkness.

Tournament officials said the round was scheduled to resume Sunday at 7:30 a.m., with a second cut and the final round to begin at roughly 11 a.m.

"These are tough weeks," Riley said. "Seems like we've been doing this all year but, you know, going to bed at 10 (p.m.) and waking up at 5 (a.m.) to play golf ... we're athletes. So I guess we can do it."

During yet another long day with abbreviated play at the Donald Ross-designed course at Sedgefield—where two weather delays combined to last nearly 5 1/2 hours—there were a few highlights.

Marino, who started the round six strokes off the pace, had seven birdies to vault up the leaderboard—including one on the par-3 No. 16 in which his tee shot landed 7 inches from the flagstick. He shot 63 to move to 198, and was one of 24 players to finish the round.

"We were talking about it when we went back out on (No. 14), if we were going to make it or not," Marino said. "We knew it was going to be close. The guys in front of us motored and we made it. I'm really thrilled about that."

Couples, the U.S. President's Cup captain who's still considering his final picks, birdied four of his first eight holes to move into contention for his first victory since 2003. And Rose had five birdies to rally after starting the round four strokes back.

But once again, the dominant storyline at this stop-and-start tournament was the weather.

Play was halted twice during Day 3 because of heavy rains and lightning.

After the second round was completed mid-morning, the start of Round 3 was pushed back 2 1/2 hours while a band of thunderstorms passed through.

Then, nearly four hours into the third round, everyone went for cover again while another wave of storms pelted the central North Carolina piedmont. Cups overflowed with water, fairways more closely resembled streams and power was briefly knocked out to the clubhouse during a television interview with Couples.

After a 2-hour, 49-minute delay—he third weather-related suspension of the tournament—play finally resumed for about an hour before dusk fell. Organizers already had been racing to play catch-up after a 4-hour delay during the first round.

"There was a lot of stopping and starting for everybody," Couples said.

Riley opened his round with an eagle on No. 1, using a 9-iron to knock his approach shot about 165 yards into the hole. After the delay, he ran a 55-foot eagle putt to within 3 feet on No. 5 and tapped it in for birdie.

The former UNLV player who's contending for his second top-10 finish of the year—and second career PGA Tour victory—shared the 36-hole lead with Maggert and Ryan Moore at 11-under 129.

Garcia caught Riley on the 10th—he made a 33-foot birdie putt on that hole, while Riley missed a 10-foot par putt and tapped in for bogey. Garcia was standing over a 10-foot birdie putt on No. 11 when play was stopped for the day.

Standing in the way: A weather-created, 26-hole marathon Sunday for both Riley and Garcia. Then again, that's nothing new during this tournament for Riley—who took his first lead Friday while playing 21 holes.

"It's what we play for—definitely tests your ability of what you've been working on," Riley said. "Guys like Sergio (have) been there so many times it's probably just like playing golf to them. To guys like me, it's different."

Vick on track to make Eagles debut Thursday



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick will make his Eagles debut Thursday night against the Jacksonville Jaguars if all goes well over the next three days of practice, coach Andy Reid said Saturday. "I think there is a chance of that," Reid said. "Right now that's the plan. But we'll see how it goes."

Vick signed with Philadelphia on Aug. 13 but was not allowed to play in the team's first two preseason games under the provisions of his suspension from the league.

Vick has worked the majority of his time at quarterback. If he does play Thursday, he would share time with start-

er Donovan McNabb and Kevin Kolb, who is coming back from a knee injury.

"I want to see how he does this week," Reid said. "He worked throughout the week here as we went to the game (in Indianapolis). He did a couple of workouts here and was here yesterday on the players' day off and worked hard. He's getting through that soreness and we'll just see how it goes for this week as he goes through practice."

Vick has spent extra time on his own working with offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg and quarterbacks coach James Urban.

"I think everybody is (anxious), including most of all himself," Reid

said. "I think he wants to get in and play again. I can't tell you right now how much he is going to play. But he's shooting to play this game."

"It looks like—I'm talking the football side—it looks like he's in pretty good shape. You could tell he's done some running and some lifting. It looked like he started out a little rusty throwing the ball and as the week went on that smoothed out for him a little bit."

Reid said Vick was using only his arm to throw initially but started to use his legs more as the week went on.

"I think he's made good strides," Reid said, "but again I have to see this week here and what he does."

Haeger's knuckler fools Cubs as Dodgers win



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlie Haeger baffled the Cubs with his knuckleball, Matt Kemp and Casey Blake homered, and the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated Chicago 2-0 in the National League to win their third game in a row on Saturday.

The NL West leaders haven't been on this kind of roll since taking five straight a month ago. All three wins have come against the struggling Cubs, who lost for the 10th time in 13 games.

Haeger (1-1) allowed three hits in seven-plus innings, struck out seven and walked four in his third major league start and second this season with Los Angeles.

Chicago managed four hits a day after getting one-hit on the road for the first time in more than 23 years.

Astros 4, Diamondbacks 2

At Houston, Brian Moehler won for the first time in more than a month as Houston won its season-best fourth straight.

Arizona has lost seven straight, its longest streak in more than three years.

Carlos Lee had two hits and a go-ahead sacrifice fly to help Moehler (8-9) end his four-game losing streak.

Max Scherzer (7-8) gave up four runs and seven hits in five innings for Arizona. He struck out seven.

Braves 4, Marlins 3

At Atlanta, rookie Tommy Hanson won his fourth straight start in August, combining with two Atlanta relievers on a four-hitter.

The Braves, powered by home runs by Yunel Escobar and Omar Infante, took a 4-0 lead against Florida in the first inning.

Hanson (9-2) gave up four hits and three runs in seven innings, improving to 4-0 this month.

Chris Volstad (9-10) gave up six hits and four runs in four innings.

Phillies 4, Mets 1

At New York, All-Star infielder Chase Utley hit a two-run homer as part of a three-run sixth inning for Philadelphia.

After New York starter Tim Lincecum held the Phillies to one hit through five shutout innings in a spot start, Philadelphia broke out against the bullpen.

Rookie left-hander J.A. Happ (10-2) settled down after allowing Omar Santos' RBI single in the second inning for the Mets. Happ has won three straight decisions.

Pirates 12, Reds 2

At Pittsburgh, Ryan Doumit hom-



Los Angeles Dodgers' Casey Blake, right, hits a solo home run as Chicago Cubs catcher Geovany Soto, left, looks on during the fourth inning of their baseball game, Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009, in Los Angeles.

AP

ered, doubled and drove in three runs to give Zach Duke some unaccustomed run support as Pittsburgh dropped Cincinnati into last place in the NL Central.

After honoring 22 members of the World Series-winning 1979 Pirates before the game, a team headed for the franchise's 17th consecutive losing season turned back the clock—if only for one night—with '79-like power, pitching and defense to win its fifth in a row, matching a season high.

Duke (10-11) matched his career high for wins set in 2006. The Pirates scored only 10 runs while he was on the mound during his 11 losses.

Rockies 14, Giants 11

At Denver, Ian Stewart and Todd Helton homered in Colorado's seven-run sixth inning and the Rockies rallied to beat the San Francisco Giants 14-11 on Saturday night to take a two-game lead in the NL wild-card race.

San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy, left, takes the ball from relief pitcher Justin Miller after he walked Colorado Rockies' Troy Tulowitzki in the sixth inning of a baseball game in Denver on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009. Miller was replaced on the mound by Merkin Valdez.

Dexter Fowler tripled twice and Jorge De La Rosa pitched six innings for Colorado, which scored a combined 11 runs in the sixth and seventh innings to even the important four-game series with San Francisco at a game apiece.

Brewers 11, Nationals 9

At Washington, Mike Cameron homered and drove in three runs, Casey McGehee singled in the tie-breaking run in the sixth inning and the Milwaukee Brewers recovered after blowing a seven-run lead in an 11-9 victory against the Washington Nationals on Saturday night.

Cameron started the decisive rally with a one-out infield single off Jason Bergmann (2-2) and advanced when second baseman Ronnie Belliard (notes) threw wildly to first. After Prince Fielder was intentionally walked, McGehee blooped a single to left-center for a 9-8 lead.

Cardinals 7, Padres 2

At San Diego, Chris Carpenter pitched seven crisp innings, Matt Holliday hit a three-run homer and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the San Diego Padres 7-0 on Saturday night.

Carpenter (14-3) won his ninth consecutive decision and moved into a tie for the major league lead in victories. He allowed three hits, walked three and struck out six.

The NL Central-leading Cardinals moved eight games ahead of the Chicago Cubs, who lost 2-0 at Los Angeles. It's the largest margin for any division leader in baseball.

Red Sox 14, Yankees 1

At Boston, Kevin Youkilis homered twice and tied a career high with six RBIs, rookie Junichi Tazawa stopped New York's big bats as the Boston Red Sox ended a five-game losing streak against the Yankees with a 14-1 win on Saturday.

The Red Sox roughed up A.J. Burnett (10-7) and set a team record with their eighth consecutive multihomer game. David Ortiz and Alex Gonzalez also connected for Boston, which has 39 homers in August with eight games left.

The Yankees beat the Red Sox 20-11 in the series opener. But on Saturday, they left six runners in scoring position.

Tazawa (2-2) worked out of trouble all day, allowing eight hits and two walks in six scoreless innings.

Angels 7, Blue Jays 3

At Toronto, Vladimir Guerrero and Juan Rivera homered, Ervin Santana won his fourth straight start and Los Angeles beat slumping Toronto.

Guerrero broke a 3-all tie with a solo shot in the sixth inning and Rivera provided some insurance with a two-run drive in the eighth.

The only runs Santana (7-6) allowed in six innings came from a three-run homer by Adam Lind in the third. Santana's 5-0 in his last six road starts.

Blue Jays rookie Scott Richmond (6-7) took the loss.

Rays 5, Rangers 4, 10 innings

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Tampa Bay slugger Carlos Pena homered twice and drove in the winning run against Texas with an RBI single in the 10th inning.

Pena finished with four RBIs for the Rays. Pena has three of his 16 career multihomer games this season, and has eight homers over his last 14 games.

Marlon Byrd tied it at 4 with a two-

out, ninth-inning solo homer off Tampa Bay closer J.P. Howell.

White Sox 4, Orioles 1

At Chicago, Carlos Quentin homered and John Danks pitched into the seventh inning, leading Chicago to the victory.

Danks (11-8) walked six but allowed just one run and three hits, helping Chicago bounce back after consecutive losses to lowly Kansas City and Baltimore. He got a standing ovation when he departed with one out in the seventh and runners on the corners.

David Hernandez (4-6) allowed three runs and three hits over four innings for Baltimore.

Indians 4, Mariners 3, 11 innings

At Cleveland, Luis Valbuena homered with two outs in the 11th inning to give Cleveland a win over Seattle.

Valbuena lined a pitch from Randy Messenger (0-1) to right for his seventh homer, capping Cleveland's comeback. The Indians trailed 3-0 after one inning.

Four Seattle pitchers held the Indians hitless over 6 2-3 innings until Valbuena connected.

Twins 8, Royals 7

At Kansas City, Missouri, Jason Kubel drove in three runs and Brian Duensing, with the help of four relievers, earned his first MLB win as Minnesota held off Kansas City.

The Royals went 3 for 19 with runners in scoring position while their home record in the season they unveiled \$275 million in stadium renovations dropped to a MLB-worst 25-38.

Duensing (1-1), making his second career start, went five innings and allowed two runs, on a double by Miguel Olivo.

Royals starter Kyle Davies (4-9) was charged with six runs in 5 2-3 innings.

Michael Cuddyer's solo homer in the second was his 20th, giving the Twins four players with 20 or more for the first time since 1987. Kubel's two-run double made it 3-0.

Athletics 3, Tigers 2

At Oakland, California, Kurt Suzuki hit an RBI single with one out in the bottom of the ninth to lead Oakland past Detroit.

Carlos Guillen and Miguel Cabrera drove in runs for the Tigers.

Daric Barton and Cliff Pennington also drove in runs for the A's, who ended a three-game slide.

Tigers starter Armando Galarraga went 6 1-3 innings, allowing two runs and seven hits. He walked two and struck out three.

Tour de LeBron comes through Akron



AKRON, Ohio (AP)—LeBron James gave fellow NBA All-Star Chris Paul a tour of his hometown—on two wheels.

The U.S. Olympic teammates and close friends rode through the city's streets Saturday as James hosted his annual "King for Kids" charity bike-a-thon. James and Paul pushed the pace in the lead group of bicyclists, pedaling past James' former high school St. Vincent-St. Mary and the city's zoo on the 8-mile route.

James, of course, was the first to cross the finish line.

The Cavaliers' superstar was joined

by TV host Nick Cannon, Cleveland coach Mike Brown and Cavs general manager Danny Ferry.

Cleveland Cavaliers All Star LeBron James (notes) laughs as he watches his son, Bryce, 2, dance after the "King for Kids Bikeathon" in Akron, Ohio, Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009. The event is hosted by James and the LeBron James Family Foundation.

The event ended a busy three days in Akron for James, who screened a new documentary, "More Than A Game," the story of how he and four childhood friends from the inner city achieved their dream of winning a high school

national championship. James was scheduled to travel to China on Saturday to promote the film, which will open in the U.S. in October.

On Friday, James made sure he watched his beloved Dallas Cowboys, who opened their new \$1.2 billion stadium with a 30-10 win over Tennessee.

"They looked great and that place is awesome, but they better raise that Jumbotron," said James, referring to Tennessee rookie punter A.J. Trahan's kick that hit the bottom of the massive video boards over the field. "I think he might have tried to do that on

purpose, you know, be the first one."

James is excited about seeing Dallas' pigskin palace and will get a chance when it hosts the NBA All-Star game in February.

Along with Paul and others, James spent much of the weekend with Darrius Snow, a 19-year-old from Atlanta who was rewarded by Nickelodeon for helping kids in his crime-infested neighborhood with a surprise trip to Ohio to be a guest of James.

Snow was abandoned by his mother when he was 2 years old. However, he became the first in his family to graduate high school and will attend Voorhees College in the fall.

Snow, who was overwhelmed by the weekend's activities, was also

given a scholarship as part of the TeenNick HALO Awards, a show produced by Cannon which will premiere in December.

"There are so many people in our communities that are making this world a better place and never get the recognition—a lot of young people," Cannon said. "I wanted to highlight all the teens who are making a difference in their community, the everyday people who are making this world tick and go around."

"It's people like Darrius who have truly inspired people, and their stories need to be told. Not only have these people overcome their own obstacles, but they've turned around and given back to make things easier for others."

Cotto ‘victim’ predicts Pacquiao knockout



MANILA, Philippines—He has yet to feel the power of Manny Pacquiao, but Paulie Malignaggi is convinced the Filipino superstar can’t measure up against Puerto Rican icon Miguel Cotto when they tangle on November 14 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Malignaggi went as far as predicting that Cotto, who beat him by unanimous decision three years ago, would knock

Pacquiao out and retain his World Boxing Organization welterweight crown. In an interview with Rick Re-eno of BoxingScene.com, Malignaggi paid tribute to Cotto’s strength by saying that he “hits like a beast.” This despite Cotto’s inability to put him down when they tangled on June 10, 2006 at the Madison Square Garden in New York. According to Malignaggi, the Puerto Rican (34-1 with 27 KOs) is simply “too big and too

strong” for Pacquiao, the pound-for-pound king, who is a 2-1 favorite in early betting odds. Unconvinced of Pacquiao’s punching power, Malignaggi even suggested that South African Joshua Clottey, who was narrowly beaten by Cotto last June 13, could also knock Pacquiao out. Of course, Cotto is also convinced that Pacquiao doesn’t have the physical attributes to topple him even at the catch weight of 145 pounds.

In an interview with Puerto Rican newspaper Primera Hora on Friday, Cotto said his only concern about Pacquiao was his speed although he noted that he could neutralize it with a “good defense.” Cotto, who started his preparations for the megabuck pay-per-view bout on August 3 in his hometown in Caguas, Puerto Rico, added that Pacquiao must look elsewhere if he wants an unprecedented seventh world title at 147 pounds.

The Pacquiao-Cotto showdown, which is also for the newly created World Boxing Council Diamond Belt, is already a guaranteed blockbuster with only a few \$750 and \$1000 tickets up for grabs. To further drum up interest,

chief promoter Bob Arum of Top Rank announced that Pacquiao and Cotto will embark on a four-city press tour starting on September 10 in New York, September 12 in Caguas, September 13 in San Francisco and September 14 in Los Angeles.

KNIGHT

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One more match was played in the opening day of the EAFF tournament with host Chinese-Taipei routing Hong Kong, 8-1. The CNMI bets will collide against Hong Kong today, while Guam will take on South Korea. The Commonwealth, which is the lone unranked team in the field, will face South Korea in its third game on Wednesday, and then host Chinese Taipei on Friday. The South Korean female strikers are favored to win the

semifinals to join Japan, North Korea, and China in the championship round in Tokyo, Japan next year. Korea is ranked the highest among the five teams at No. 21. It swept its three games in the preliminary competition before losing to China in the finals, 2-3. The CNMI’s second foe, Hong Kong, holds a FIFA ranking of No. 58. In April this year, Hong Kong blanked the Philippines, 2-0 in an international friendly game and has climbed to its highest FIFA ranking in the past five years. Chinese Taipei, which will

square off with the CNMI in the last day of the round-robin tournament, was runner-up at the 2008 Preliminary Competition. The host lost to South Korea, but made a competition record after collecting 14 goals in three games. Chinese-Taipei is currently ranked No. 32. Besides the finals berth for the East Asian Football Federation Women’s Football Championship 2010, also at stake in the EAFF women’s tournament that will run until Aug. 30 are cash prizes. The winner of the semifinals will receive \$30,000, \$20,000 for runner-up, \$15,000 for third, \$10,000 for fourth, and

\$5,000 for fifth. The CNMI bets left for the EAFF tournament on Tuesday and made a stop to Japan for two exhibition games before going to Taiwan. Besides Carrie, other members of the team are Natalie Hill, Madison Smith, Angela Shyrack, Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, Brenda Schultz, Lindsay Davis, Melody Matson, Zoe Jewell, Katie Peters, Michiko Tenorio, Patricia Coleman, Brianna Martin, Amber Roberts, Rebecca Newman, Maryana Gramlich, Amanda Allen, Emily Gries, Elisa Fejeran, and Felicia McFarland.

CNMI-LED

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tion in 2001. In the last four years (2005-2008), the North bets were ranked third before climbing to second in the 2009 edition of the meet. Rankings were based on points gained by players from each region. Event winners gain 12 points, runners-up 11, and so on. With the North Team having only 12 players against the East and West’s 16 each, it lost a few points. CNMI’s Ji Hoon Heo gave

the North Team the biggest points after winning the boys’ 18-and-under division against the West’s Chris Hargrove. Thea Minor and Rafael Jones also delivered for the North Team after making it to the Final Four. Minor finished third in the girls’ 14-and-under division, while Jones was fourth. Meanwhile, Ocenia Tennis Federation development officer Dan O’Connell lauded players and coaches for giving their best in this month’s tournament. “August is the biggest month of the year for tennis in Pacific Oceania. Our players have

trained hard all year long. You can see by their high standard of play that their hard work is paying off,” he said. “I thanked our sponsors Goodman-Fielder, Air Pacific, and the Oceania National Olympic Committees for their support of our competition programs. I also thanked our disciplined junior players, my coaching friends and our hard working administrators for their outstanding work in building our great game,” O’Connell said. O’Connell added more tournaments await the top performers of the POJC later this year.

“The results of the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships will help the ITF to select the players who will participate in the ITF Team to New Zealand in December and the ITF Team to Australia in January. The Oceania tennis leaders are in Fiji to watch our players,” O’Connell added. The OTF development officer also said that after the tournament, over 20 coaches from around the region will participate in three-day ITF Play and Stay Course conducted by Frank Couraud, the ITF Development Projects Administrator.

SAIPAL

From Page 28

slippery bats, hitting heavy balls, and squeezing their wet clothes. Unfortunately, despite all four teams’ hustle plays, only one team can take the Marianas Cup, and this time it was SaiPal. SaiPal, which ruled the Saipan leg of the Marianas Cup qualifier, survived not only the rain, but also two playoff games in the loser’s bracket to top the weekend tournament and bring the Marianas Cup back to Saipan. Guam defeated Saipan

in last year’s Marianas Cup, ending Saipan’s four-year reign in the event. Guam earned a chance to defend its 2008 title after winning two straight games in the elimination round. The visitors first beat SaiPal, 15-6, and then thwarted Rota to advance to the finals. Rota won its first game over Tinian. Tinian and SaiPal were relegated to the loser’s bracket and the latter kept its’ finals bid alive after beating the visitors, 11-7. In the loser’s bracket semis, SaiPal defeated Rota, 20-8, to arrange a rematch against Guam.

In the championship, Guam has a twice-to-beat advantage, as it swept its first two games in the double-elimination tournament. SaiPal won Game 1, 13-1, to force a deciding Game 1. While rain had already subsided later in the afternoon, darkness had began to cover the wet field. In this situation, both teams agreed they will play only three innings and whoever leads will win the match. However, Guam and SaiPal played only one complete inning in Game 2 with the former ahead, 3-1. Guam nor SaiPal could not take the win in Game 2, as a game is only

called if it was played in at least three innings. To finally determine the winner, organizers decided to add up the scores of the two teams from their previous two meetings. In the count back, SaiPal collected 19 runs against Guam’s 16, giving the Marianas Cup to the former. SaiPal is composed of Clifton Silil, Hector Efraim, Julian Camacho, Joey Dela Cruz, Tony Luzama, Gloyd Martin, Kuich Damian, Leo Bobai, Marino Hiroichi, Jason Hayes, Ferdy Ngeiruekau, Erica Tenorio, Julie Guerrero, Beverly Ngeiruekau, and Didi Tudela.

BOGEY-FREE

From Page 28

Former Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan was runner-up in the double-peoria with his 70.8, while Ben Deleon Guerrero finished third with a net 71.2. Manibusan saved an even par 72, built on a 2-over par 38 on the front nines and a much improved 2-under par 34 on the

back nines. Deleon Guerrero shot a 42 and 40 on the front and back nines, respectively. Besides Wabol, four others won in the low gross category and received \$200 each. Thompson Palik prevailed in the A Flight after carding a 4-over par 76. Palik was a bit sluggish in the first nine holes, drilling a 5-over par 41, but redeemed himself in the last nine holes with a 1-under par 36.

James Balajadia also shot a 4-over par 76 to win the C Flight. He tallied a 38 on both the front and back nines. In the B Flight, Jack Diaz logged an 8-over par 80 after firing a 38 and 42 on the front and back nines, respectively. Leina Kim topped the Ladies Flight with 6-over par 78. Like Palik, Kim had a tough time in the first nine holes, hitting a 5-over 41 before finding her target in the last nines holes with a

1-over par 37. Despite the rain that forced participants to finish the round past 2pm, more than 70 golfers still showed up for the fundraiser. Raffle and closest to the pin prizes were given besides the cash purse for flight champions. There was also a hole-in-one contest on No. 14, but no one won the \$5,000 hole sponsored by the Committee to Elect Hein- z & Arnold.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS			Scott McCarron	66-69	135
AMERICAN LEAGUE			Martin Laird	67-68	135
			Bryce Molder	68-68	136
			Matt Jones	67-69	136
			Kent Jones	68-68	136
			Kevin Sutherland	71-65	136
			Brad Faxon	68-68	136
			Kris Blanks	74-62	136
			Darron Stiles	70-66	136
			Rocco Mediate	67-69	136
			Fredrik Jacobson	68-68	136
			Jonathan Byrd	66-70	136
			Daniel Chopra	67-69	136
			Jeff Quinney	70-67	137
			Jeff Klauk	69-68	137
			Jimmy Walker	70-67	137
			Justin Thomas	65-72	137
			Corey Pavin	69-68	137
			Jay Williamson	67-70	137
			Cliff Kresge	68-69	137
			Steve Lowery	69-68	137
			D.J. Trahan	67-70	137
			David Toms	69-68	137
			Vaughn Taylor	67-70	137
			Troy Matteson	68-70	138
			Davis Love III	71-67	138
			Charley Hoffman	68-70	138
			J.P. Hayes	70-68	138
			Brett Quigley	69-69	138
			Harrison Frazier	71-67	138
			Tommy Gainey	72-66	138
			David Mathis	70-68	138
			Greg Owen	68-70	138
			James Driscoll	70-68	138
			Billy Mayfair	69-69	138
			Bob Heintz	70-68	138
			Todd Hamilton	67-71	138
			Richard S. Johnson	68-70	138
			Joe Durant	69-70	139
			Heath Slocum	73-66	139
			Charles Warren	67-72	139
			Kirk Triplett	69-70	139
			Michael Bradley	71-68	139
			Chris Stroud	72-67	139
			Ricky Barnes	70-69	139
			Tyler Aldridge	71-68	139
			Troy Kelly	69-70	139
			Ryan Blaum	67-72	139
			Parker McLachlin	68-71	139
			Steve Elkington	65-75	140
			Scott Piercy	73-67	140
			Ted Purdy	71-69	140
			Lee Janzen	69-71	140
			Bubba Watson	71-69	140
			Brian Vranesh	70-70	140
			Peter Tomasulo	72-68	140
			Arjun Atwal	73-67	140
			Peter Lonard	68-72	140
			Chris DiMarco	69-71	140
			James Nitties	73-68	141
			Mathias Gronberg	72-69	141
			Will MacKenzie	70-71	141
			Adam Scott	66-75	141
			K.J. Choi	67-74	141
			Tag Ridings	68-73	141
			Jason Dufner	68-73	141
			Roland Thatcher	73-68	141
			Marc Turnesa	70-72	142
			Brian Bateman	71-71	142
			Brendon de Jonge	71-71	142
			Rick Price	73-69	142
			Brendon Todd	69-73	142
			Derek Fathauer	69-73	142
			Webb Simpson	72-71	143
			Stuart Appleby	71-72	143
			Spencer Levin	70-73	143
			Billy Andrade	73-70	143
			David Duval	74-70	144
			George McNeill	74-70	144
			David Robinson	71-73	144
			Mark Calcavecchia	70-74	144
			Nicholas Thompson	74-71	145
			Simon McGreal	75-71	146
			Frank Lickliter II	73-73	146
			Steve Allan	72-75	147
			Jason Gore	78-70	148
			Eric Axley	75-74	149
			SCORE THRU		
			Chris Riley	-11	F
			Ryan Moore	-11	17
			Jeff Maggert	-10	17
			Sergio Garcia	-9	F
			Bill Haas	-9	F
			Chez Reavie	-9	F
			Kevin Stadler	-8	F
			Boo Weekley	-8	F
			Marc Leishman	-8	F
			Johnson Wagner	-8	F
			Fred Couples	-8	F
			Jeev Milkha Singh	-7	F
			John Senden	-7	F
			Michael Allen	-7	F
			Ken Duke	-7	F
			Justin Rose	-7	F
			Glen Day	-7	F
			Alex Cejka	-7	F
			J.J. Henry	-7	F
			Brandt Snedeker	-7	F
			Kevin Streelman	-7	F
			By The Associated Press		

The Week in Sports

Heo, CNMI Junior All-Stars dominate headlines

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Ji Hoon Heo's supremacy in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and the CNMI Junior All-Stars' bid in the World Series dominated last week's headlines.

Heo ruled the boys' 18-and-under division, beating five opponents in the POJC played at the Goodman Fielder International Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

The CNMI bet was a force in the weeklong netfest, as he topped all his foes in straight sets en route to taking the title that eluded him last year. Heo made it to the finals of the POJC last year, but lost to Vanuatu's Lorenzo Pineda in the title match, as the CNMI netter played with an injured ankle.

Besides Heo, seven other CNMI

bets competed in the Oceania Tennis Federation-sanctioned tournament. They were Thea and Thecel Minor, Rafael Jones, Christian Miller, Melody Johnson, Benjie Decena, and Jodel Fernandez.

Thea duplicated her 2008 feat in the same event, as she finished third this year after downing Papua New Guinea's Lorish Puluspene in the consolation match in the girls' 14-and-under singles, 7-5, 6-1.

Jones also made it to the Final Four, but lost to the Cook Islands' Ngana Nicholas in the battle for third place, 4-6, 3-6. Jones finished fourth, too in the 2008 edition of the tournament, after he retired in his third place match against Fiji's Robin Morove in the second set.

Miller, who lost to Jones in the quarterfinals, settled for seventh place after thwarting Samoa's Leon Simpson, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, in the consolation bracket.

Johnson, who missed her quarterfinals game against Thea due to flu, lost her consolation match against Vanuatu's Lorraine Banimatoku and dropped to eighth spot.

In the girls' 18-and-under, Thecel and Fernandez, who were eliminated after the pool play, came in 13th and 14th place, respectively. Decena was ranked 13th in the boys' 18-and-under division.

The CNMI Junior All-Stars finished third in the International Pool of the World Series and was only a few steps away from clinching a semis ticket.

The CNMI bets won two games in the pool play, beating Italy, 13-2, and Canada, 11-9. The Commonwealth lost to Aruba, 3-5, and Puerto Rico, 1-11.

With its 2-2 record in this year's World Series, the Thelma Mizer-managed Junior All-Stars became the only CNMI team in the Juniors divi-

sion to win more than one game in Taylor, Michigan.

The CNMI sent a Junior All-Star Team to the World Series from 2001 to 2005 and three of these five teams recorded only one win apiece, while the two others were shut out.

In another off-island tournament for Commonwealth athletes, the CNMI Women's National Team debuted in the East Asian Football Federation Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition in Tainan City, Taiwan, on Saturday.

The CNMI bets faced Guam and lost, 1-5.

In local action, Game 1 in both the masters and open divisions of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League was completed with MDX-Chow Queen and NMBA-Ebisuya drawing first blood.

MDX worked its way back from a 12-point halftime deficit to nail a 100-93 win over defending champion Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense and move a win away from claiming the title. Game 2 was set for Saturday, but it was called off due to rain.

In the masters division, NMBA clobbered Cabalen, 104-85, to take a 1-0 lead in their own best-of-three title series.

Still in basketball, DCCA debuted in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League with an 82-80 win over Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighters, while CHC improved to a 2-0 record after stunning MBI, 70-66.

Bank of Guam ended its three-game losing skid with a 90-64 thrashing of Customs, while the McGraw-Hill-backed Public School System gained its second win in four games after thumping CPA-Accounting, 70-66.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ji Hoon Heo, seen here taking a breather from a local tournament, won the boys' 18-and-under division of the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji on Friday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI Women's National Football Team's Patricia Coleman, left, and Amanda Allen jog during a warm-up drill at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Junior All-Stars, seen here after dominating the district meet in June, made a feat in the World Series after winning two games in Taylor, Michigan.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
PSS' Derrick Aughenbaugh goes up for a layup against CPA-Accounting's Mitch Aaron during their game in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League last week the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMBA's Rio "Pacman" Jacob pulls up for a jumper against Cabalen's Mario Alegre during Game 1 of their title series in the masters division of the UFO caging on Thursday at the JP Center Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MDX Chow Queen's Ivan De Vero is sandwiched by SIP's Peter Mendiola, left, and Brendon Talania during Game 1 of their title series in the open division of the UFO caging on Thursday at the JP Center Basketball Court.



Tebow's Gators lead preseason Top 25

As Tim Tebow and the Florida Gators prepare to make a run at their third national title in the last four seasons, the defending champions have already made some history.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Heo, CNMI Junior All-Stars dominate headlines

Ji Hoon Heo's supremacy in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and the CNMI Junior All-Stars' bid in the World Series dominated last week's headlines.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Knight scores CNMI's first goal in EAFF



WWW.EAFF.COM

Carrie Knight, inset, is hugged by her teammates after scoring the CNMI's first goal against Guam during their game in the East Asian Football Federation Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition on Saturday at the Tainan County Stadium, in Tainan County, Taiwan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Women's National Football Team debuted in the East Asian Football Federation Women's

Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition on Saturday with Carrie Knight giving the Commonwealth's its first goal.

The CNMI played against Guam in its inaugural match in EAFF



at the Tainan County Stadium, in Tainan County, Taiwan, but Knight's goal was not enough, as coach Sugao Kambe's wards still lost, 1-5.

Despite bowing to Guam, CNMI debut in the EAFF was much

better than when it duelled Guam early this year. About four months ago, CNMI went to Guam and challenged the host in the 2nd Marianas Football Cup with the former losing in a shut-out game, 0-8.

See KNIGHT on Page 26

Bogey-free game lifts Wabol to win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Jess Wabol ended a dry spell on a wet Saturday after winning the Heinz & Arnold Fundraising Golf Tournament at the Coral Ocean Point course.

Wabol, who failed to bag a top place in the first eight months of the year, came back with a vengeance, ruling both the Championship Flight and double-peoria event of the fundraiser.



Wabol

The veteran golfer tamed the Agingan Point course with a bogey-free and 6-under par 67 game, while his foes struggled, especially when it started to rain heavily early afternoon.

"Though the greens and fairways were a bit wet, I was able to have a very good game. It did not rain that hard until the last four holes," Wabol said.

Wabol finished the first nine holes with an impressive 4-under par 32 before he slowed down in the last nine with his 1-under par 35. He recorded a total of -3.6 handicap from the six hidden holes to end up with a net 70.6 and top the double-peoria division.

See BOGEY-FREE on Page 26

SaiPal rules rain-soaked Marianas Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



If a sportsmanship trophy was at stake for the Miller Lite 7th Annual Marianas Cup Friendship Tournament and it could be split up, SaiPal, Rota, Tinian, and Guam should

be given equal parts of the hardware for playing in the rain-soaked slow-pitch event on Saturday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Heavy rains marked the season-finale of the Marianas Cup, but despite the bad weather, all four teams came in full force and played their hearts out, diving in water-drenched bases, swinging

See SAIPAL on Page 26



A Tinian runner runs to the flooded first base during their game against SaiPal in the Miller Lite 7th Annual Marianas Cup Friendship Tournament on Saturday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI-led North moves up to second in POJC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships concluded on Friday in Lautoka, Fiji with the CNMI-anchored North Pacific Team moving up to second from third place.

The North Pacific Team, which had eight of its 12 members coming from the CNMI, collected 95 points for a runner-up finish behind the West Pacific Team, which earned

143 points.



The East Pacific team had 73 points to place third. The West netters had won the overall championship in the POJC since its incep-

See CNMI-LED on Page 26



Participants in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji pose for a group photo at the Goodman Fielder International Regional Tennis Centre at the conclusion of the tournament on Friday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO